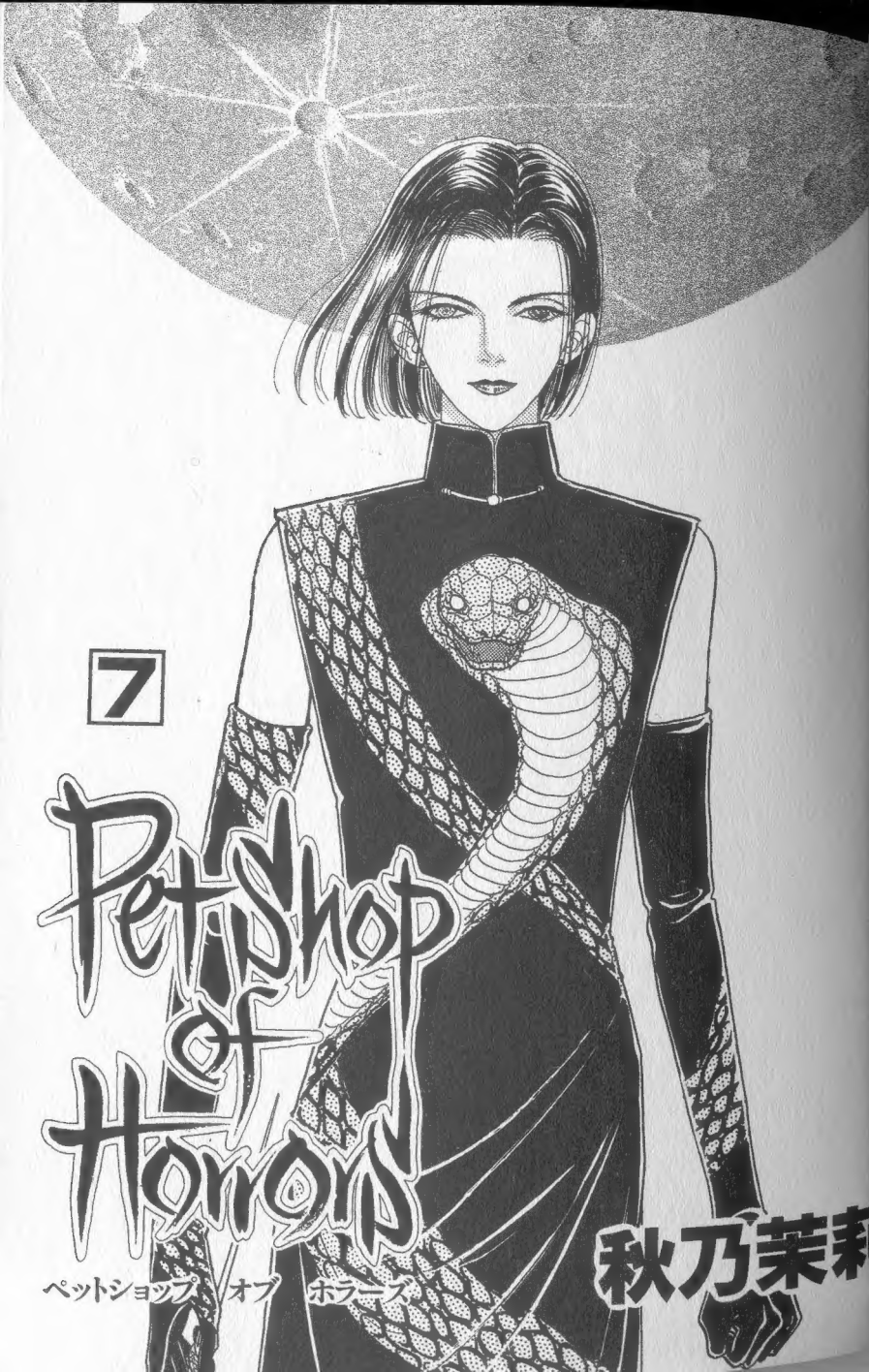
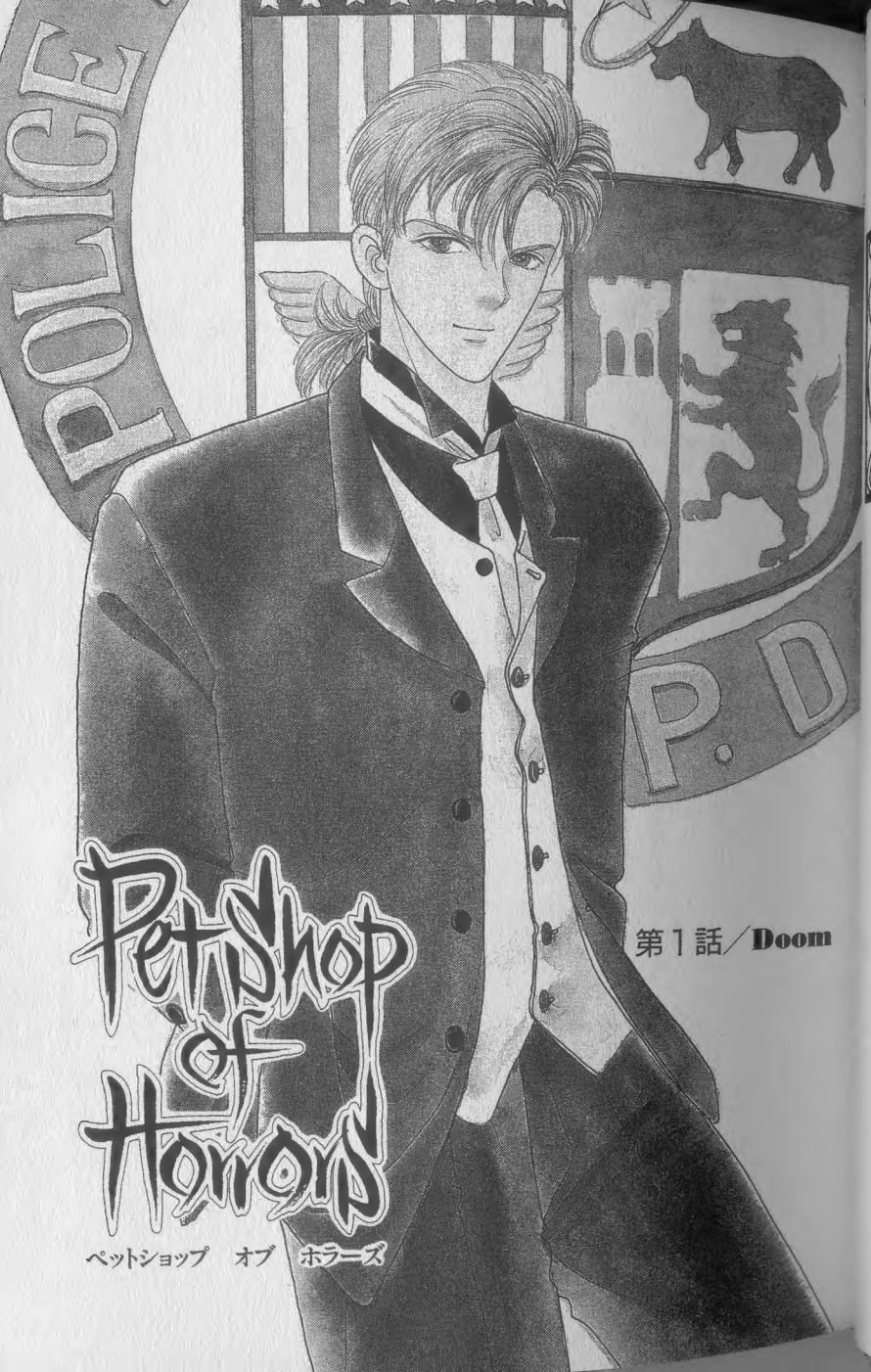

7
Petshop of Horrors
ペットショップ・オブ・ホラーズ
秋乃茉莉

Pet Shop of Horrors

Volume 7
by Matsuri Akino

TOKYOPOP®
LOS ANGELES • TOKYO • LONDON • HAMBURG



Pet Shop of Horrors

ペットショップ　オブ　ホラーズ

第1話／Doom

CONTENTS

1　Doom 7
2　Donor 57
3　Duty 109
4　Diet 154
Pet Catalog 209

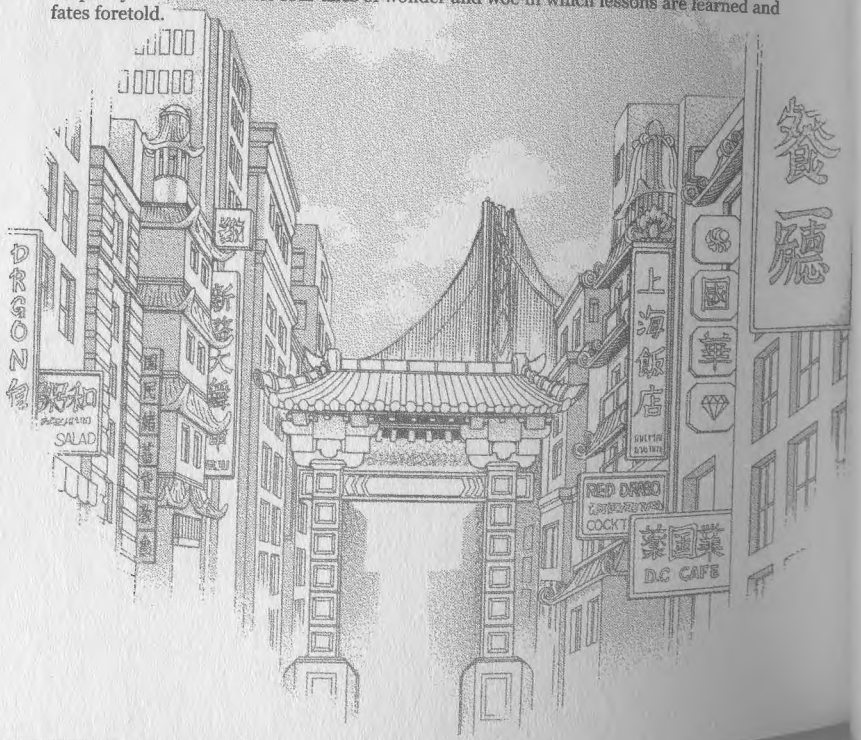
The Story so far

Plumes of mist billow up from the back alleys of Chinatown, home to a variety of merchants of the occult and mystical. And in the crevices of this urban barrio sits a solitary pet shop. Its proprietor, an enigmatic figure known as Count D, beckons through his doors the injured and the scarred, introducing them to creatures wondrous and bizarre.

Our guide through this mysterious landscape is one Detective Leon Orcot who has traced a series of seemingly unrelated crimes to Count D and his Pet Shop of Horrors. A steadfast skeptic, Leon dismisses as trickery the inexplicable events he witnesses. But in his continual attempts to prove D's guilt, this hard-boiled dick inevitably finds himself enraptured by the illusions around him.

The detective, therefore, has formed a strange friendship with his suspect. And as the bond between the two thickens, one must question who has the upper hand. Is the Count playing into the detective's hands, or is it the other way around? Now, the veils of secrecy are slowly being withdrawn...the hidden truths of the detective and the dark secrets of the Count are soon to be revealed.

Prepare yourselves now for four tales of wonder and woe in which lessons are learned and fates foretold.



Translator - Jeremiah Bourque
English Adaptation - Tim Beedle
Copy Editor - Christopher Conrad, Aaron Sparron
Retouch and Lettering - Kristina Kovacs
Cover Layout - Raymond Makowski
Graphic Designer - John Lo

Editor - Bryce P. Coleman
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller, Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

A TOKYOPOP® Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Petshop of Horrors Vol. 7

© 1997 MATSURI AKINO. All Rights Reserved.
First published in Japan in 1997 by Ohzora Publishing Co. Tokyo, Japan.
English publication rights arranged through Ohzora Comic Creation Co., Ltd.

English text copyright ©2004 TOKYOPOP Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 1-59182-504-0

First TOKYOPOP printing: July 2004

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

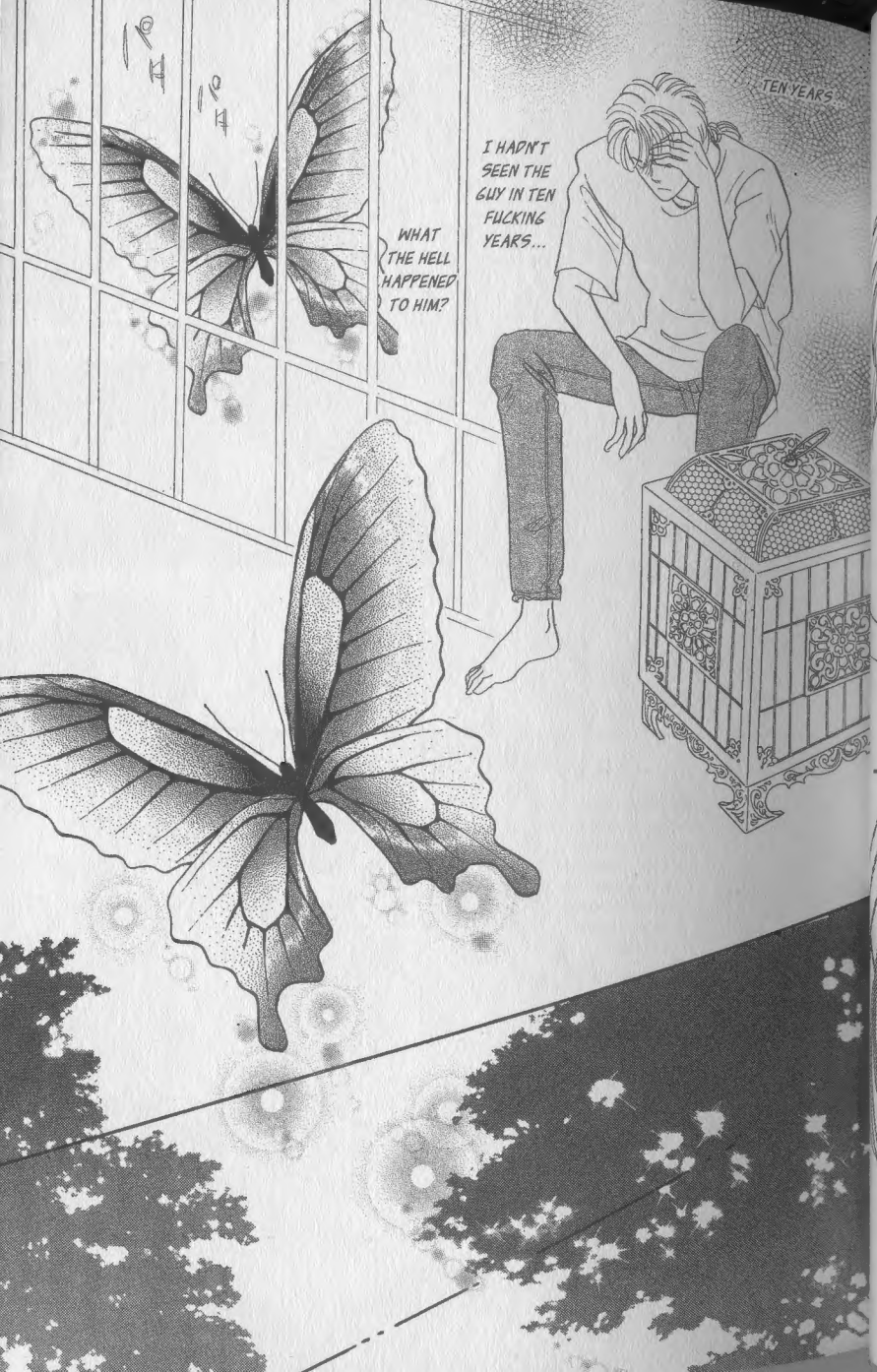
Printed in the USA

SHIT!!
MAX?!
!!
STOP!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH.
PUT DOWN THE GUN AND TURN AROUND! SLOWLY!!
huff
huff

I HAD THE SON OF A BITCH CORNERED. HAD MY GUN RIGHT ON HIM, BUT I HESITATED BEFORE PULLING THE TRIGGER.
MY PARTNER DIED BECAUSE OF THAT. BECAUSE OF ME.
A GOOD MAN DIED TONIGHT BECAUSE I GOT COLD FEET. I KNEW WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE, BUT I COULDN'T SHOOT SOMEONE THAT I'D...
...BECAUSE OF ME.
THIRTY YEARS OLD. HAD JUST PROPOSED TO HIS GIRLFRIEND. NOW I'VE GOTTA CALL HER AND TELL HER THAT HER FIANCÉ IS DEAD...
NOT TODAY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO LOOK IN ON CHRIS?
THIS ISN'T YOUR PROBLEM. I NEED TO DEAL WITH IT ON MY OWN.
I'M GOING HOME.
...SORRY.

AND THE BITCH OF IT IS, MAX ISN'T THE ONE THAT'S TEARING ME UP.
THE OTHER GUY'S NAME WAS HARRY SEALS. A CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
THE TWO OF US USED TO PLAY TOGETHER ALL THE TIME.
RIGHT UP UNTIL HE MOVED AWAY IN JUNIOR HIGH.
I HADN'T SEEN HIM IN TEN YEARS.
HE WAS PROBABLY AS SURPRISED TO SEE I'D BECOME A COP AS I WAS TO FIND HIM HOLDING UP BANKS.
THE HARRY I KNEW HAD A GOOD HEAD ON HIS SHOULDERS, AND A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG.
I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED HE'D WIND UP MAKING HIS LIVING WITH A GUN.

YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.
FINE.
I'M IN NO MOOD TO ARGUE WITH YOU TONIGHT.
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP, AND I APPRECIATE IT.
SWEET DREAMS, MY DEAR DECTECTIVE.
HERE, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS.
WAIT A MINUTE, DETECTIVE.
NO...
IT'S JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH ALL OF THIS.
And it's house-trained!
WHAT IS IT?
ANOTHER FLOWER?
.....
BUT...
COUNT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A PET. PLUS, MY APARTMENT'S SO SMALL...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THIS LITTLE GUY DOESN'T NEED VERY MUCH ATTENTION.


TEN YEARS...
I HADN'T SEEN THE GUY IN TEN FUCKING YEARS...
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HIM?

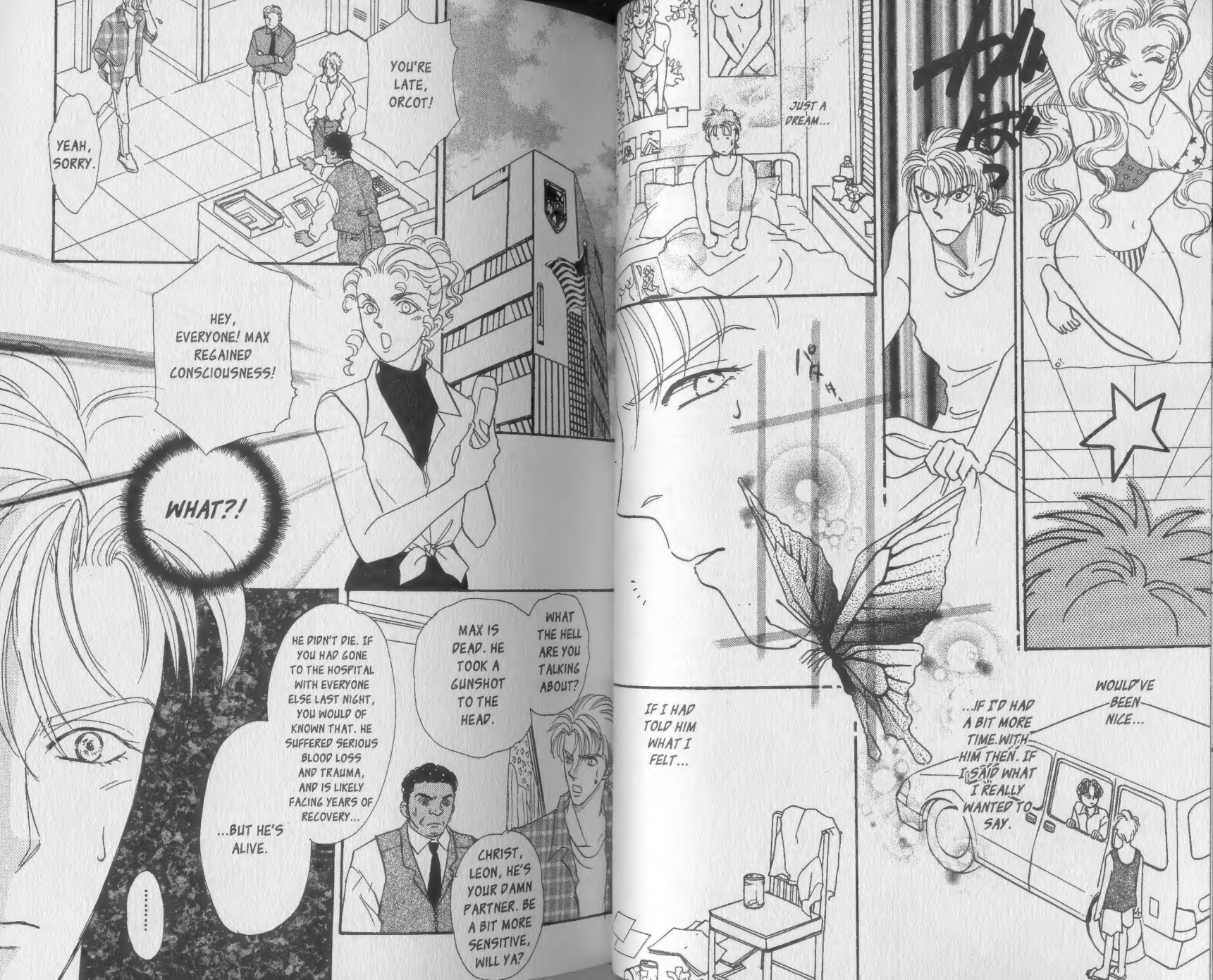
A DAMN BUTTERFLY?! OF ALL THE PANSY-ASS LITTLE...

SURE IS PRETTY, THOUGH...

YEAH, IT WON'T BE MUCH TROUBLE, BUT IF ANY OF THE GUYS FROM THE STATION SEE ME WITH THIS, I'M GONNA BE LAUGHED OFF THE FORCE.

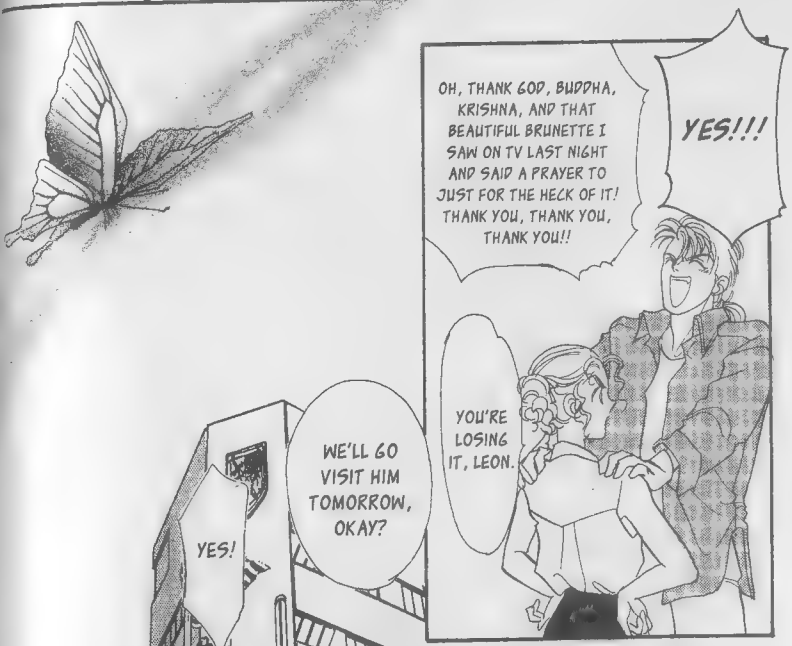
ブロロロ
WAIT A MINUTE! HARRY?!
HARRY!

LEON!
LEON!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL PACKED.
OH, HEY, HARRY!
YEAH.
I'LL BE BACK FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK. PROVIDED IT'S NOT SNOWING OR ANYTHING, WE CAN SHOOT SOME MORE HOOPS THEN.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'D BETTER WRITE ME.
I WILL.

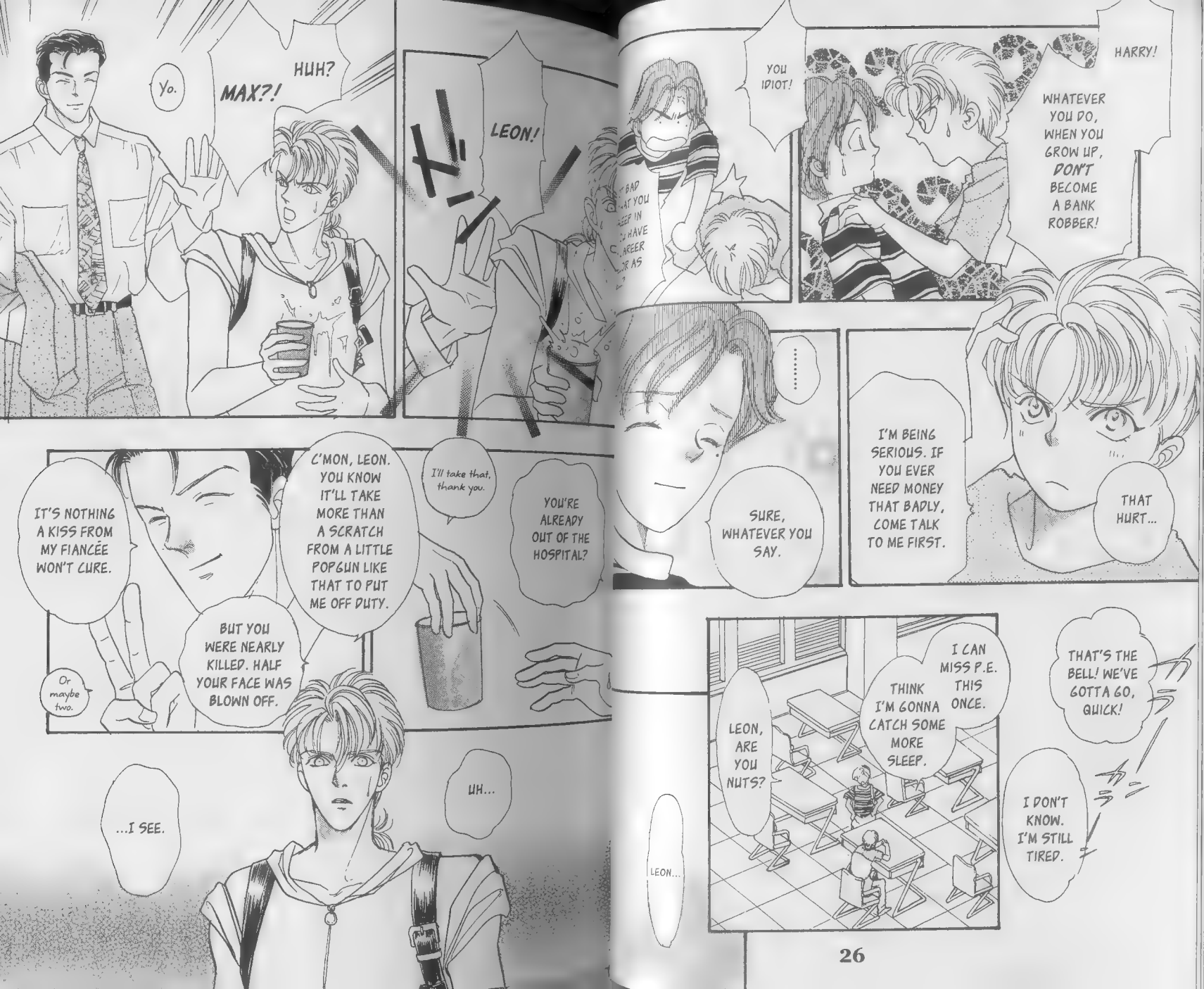

YEAH, SORRY.
YOU'RE LATE, ORCOT!
HEY, EVERYONE! MAX REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS!
WHAT?!
.....
...BUT HE'S ALIVE.
HE DIDN'T DIE. IF YOU HAD GONE TO THE HOSPITAL WITH EVERYONE ELSE LAST NIGHT, YOU WOULD OF KNOWN THAT. HE SUFFERED SERIOUS BLOOD LOSS AND TRAUMA, AND IS LIKELY FACING YEARS OF RECOVERY...
MAX IS DEAD. HE TOOK A GUNSHOT TO THE HEAD.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHRIST, LEON, HE'S YOUR DAMN PARTNER. BE A BIT MORE SENSITIVE, WILL YA?
JUST A DREAM...
IF I HAD TOLD HIM WHAT I FELT...
...IF I'D HAD A BIT MORE TIME WITH HIM THEN. IF I SAID WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY.
WOULD'VE BEEN NICE...

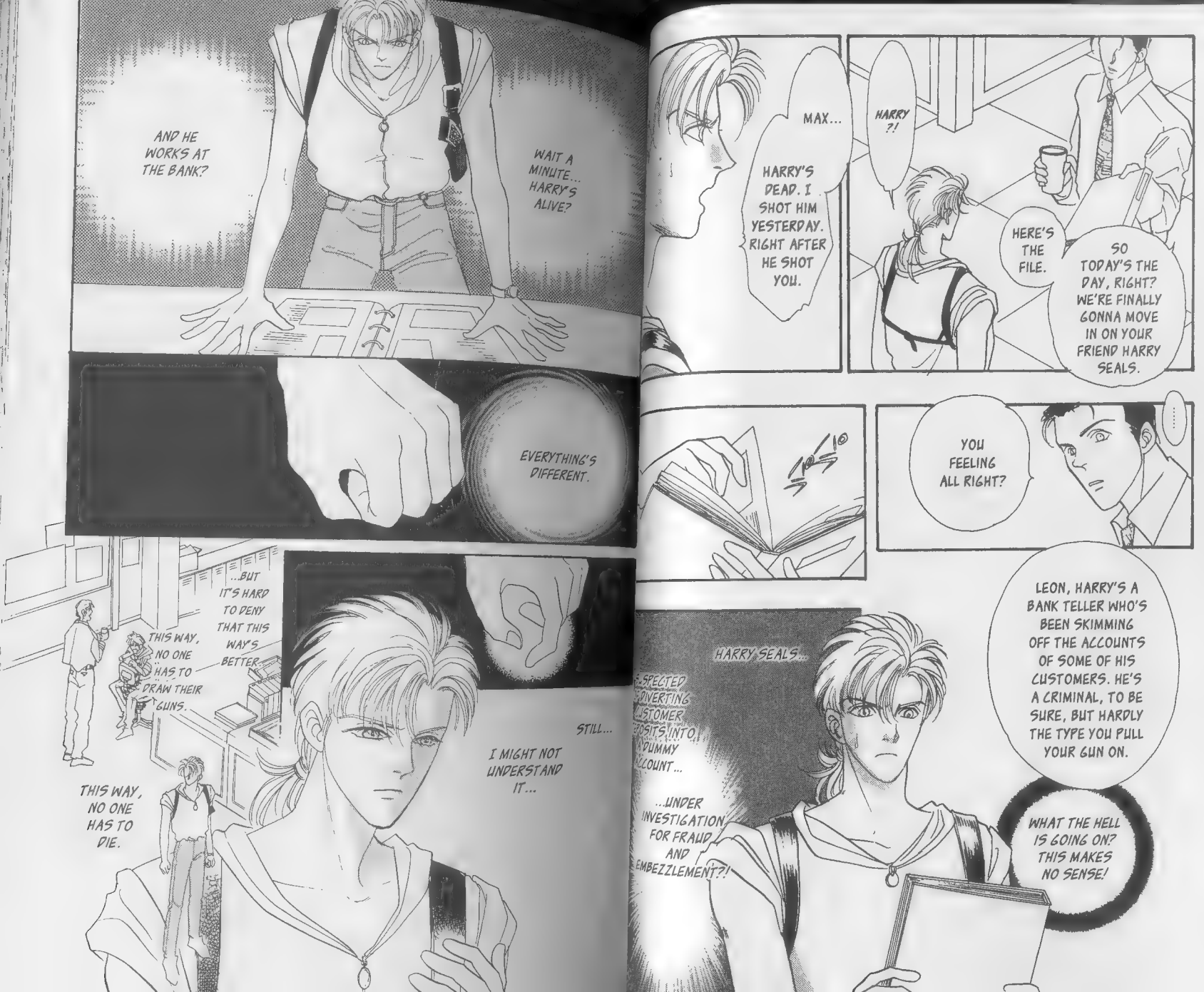
YEOWCH!!!
?
PINCH ME HERE, WILL YA?

...I'M NOT DREAMING?!
I...


OH, THANK GOD, BUDDHA, KRISHNA, AND THAT BEAUTIFUL BRUNETTE I SAW ON TV LAST NIGHT AND SAID A PRAYER TO JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!
YES!!!
YOU'RE LOSING IT, LEON.
WE'LL GO VISIT HIM TOMORROW, OKAY?
YES!

Whew...
SOUNDS COOL...
YOU SHOT A COP AND A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE. IT WAS PRETTY TWISTED.
YOU WERE A BANK ROBBER.
HARRY?
C'MON, FIVE MINUTES TILL P.E.
WHAT?
LEON...
HEY, LEON! RISE AND SHINE, MAN.
I MANAGED TO CORNER YOU. YOU TURNED AROUND...
IT WAS RAININ' PRETTY HARD.
I WAS THE DETECTIVE WORKING ON YOUR CASE. I HAD FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU AND WAS IN PURSUIT.
YOU MAY NOT THINK SO IN A MINUTE.
...AND THEN I... !...!
NO, I WAS JUST TIRED. HAD A WEIRD DREAM ABOUT YOU, THOUGH.
I WISH! MY MOM CANCELLED CABLE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO FALL ASLEEP IN CLASS LIKE THAT.
TOO MANY LATE NIGHTS WATCHING CINEMAX?


Yo.
HUH?
MAX?!
LEON!
YOU IDIOT!
HARRY!
WHATEVER YOU DO, WHEN YOU GROW UP, DON'T BECOME A BANK ROBBER!
.....
SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY.
I'M BEING SERIOUS. IF YOU EVER NEED MONEY THAT BADLY, COME TALK TO ME FIRST.
THAT HURT...
IT'S NOTHING A KISS FROM MY FIANCÉE WON'T CURE.
C'MON, LEON. YOU KNOW IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A SCRATCH FROM A LITTLE POPGUN LIKE THAT TO PUT ME OFF DUTY.
I'll take that, thank you.
YOU'RE ALREADY OUT OF THE HOSPITAL?
BUT YOU WERE NEARLY KILLED. HALF YOUR FACE WAS BLOWN OFF.
Or maybe two.
...I SEE.
UH...
LEON, ARE YOU NUTS?
I CAN MISS P.E. THIS ONCE.
THINK I'M GONNA CATCH SOME MORE SLEEP.
LEON...
THAT'S THE BELL! WE'VE GOTTA GO, QUICK!
I DON'T KNOW. I'M STILL TIRED.


AND HE WORKS AT THE BANK?
WAIT A MINUTE... HARRY'S ALIVE?
EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT.
THIS WAY, NO ONE HAS TO DIE.
THIS WAY, NO ONE HAS TO DRAW THEIR GUNS.
...BUT IT'S HARD TO DENY THAT THIS WAY'S BETTER.
STILL...
I MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND IT...
MAX...
HARRY'S DEAD. I SHOT HIM YESTERDAY. RIGHT AFTER HE SHOT YOU.
HARRY?!
HERE'S THE FILE.
SO TODAY'S THE DAY, RIGHT? WE'RE FINALLY GONNA MOVE IN ON YOUR FRIEND HARRY SEALS.
YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
HARRY SEALS...
...SUSPECTED OF DIVERTING CUSTOMER DEPOSITS INTO A DUMMY ACCOUNT...
...UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT?!
LEON, HARRY'S A BANK TELLER WHO'S BEEN SKIMMING OFF THE ACCOUNTS OF SOME OF HIS CUSTOMERS. HE'S A CRIMINAL, TO BE SURE, BUT HARDLY THE TYPE YOU PULL YOUR GUN ON.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? THIS MAKES NO SENSE!

YEAH, I LIKE THIS TURN OF EVENTS MUCH BETTER.
EH?
HEY, LEON, BACK TO EARTH, MAN.

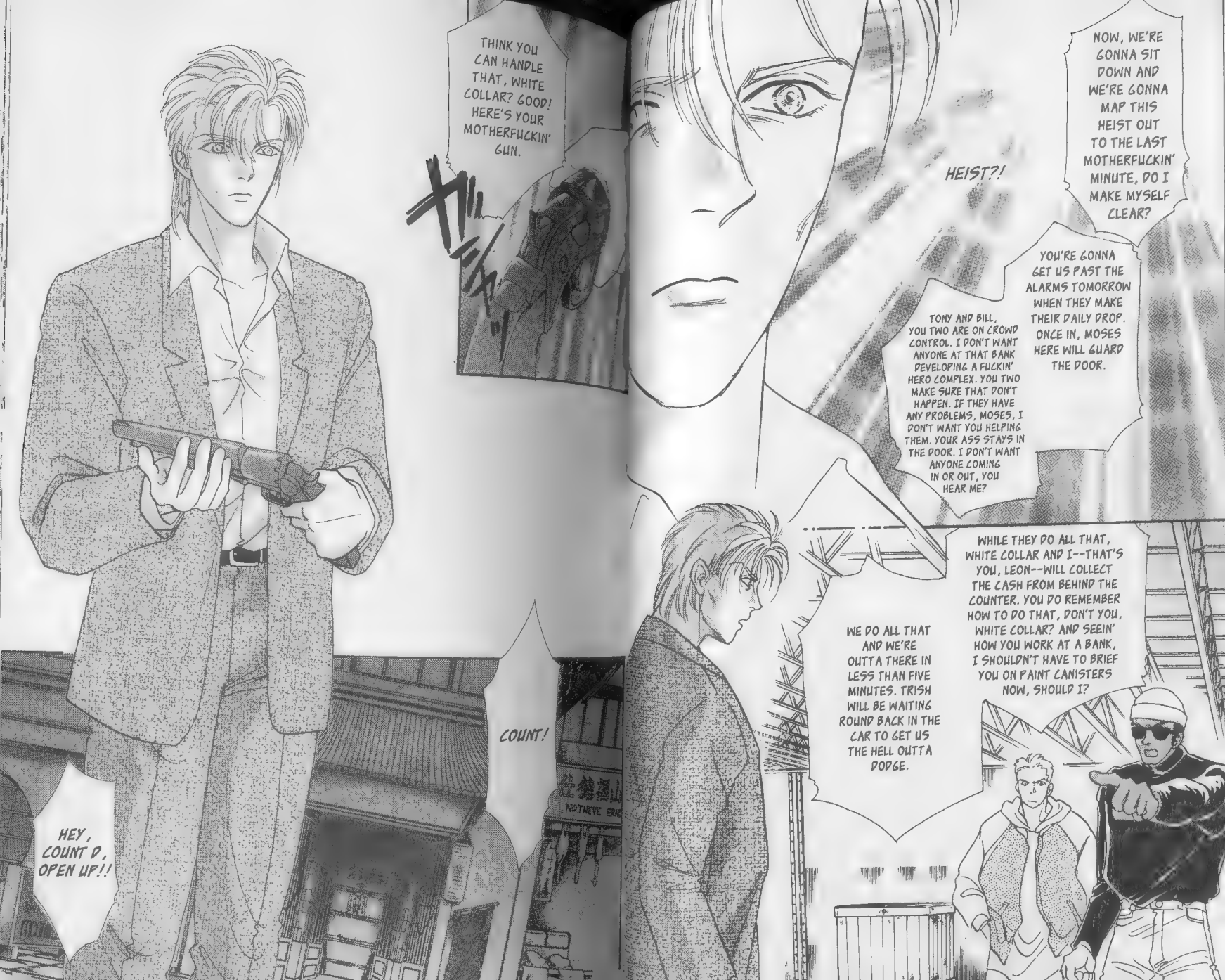
LET ME GUESS, YOU WERE HAVING THAT DREAM AGAIN.
THE ONE THAT PLAYS OUT LIKE A BAD EPISODE OF NYPD BLUE. WHERE YOU SHOOT ME AFTER I SHOOT YOUR PARTNER.
--I SHOULD COME SEE YOU FIRST. YOU'VE ONLY TOLD ME 100 TIMES.
PERSONALLY, I LIKE THE BANK ROBBER DREAM BETTER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER NEED MONEY. IN FACT, I'LL PROBABLY BE THE ONE ASKING YOU TO SPARE SOME CHANGE.
WITH YOUR GRADES, YOU'LL BE TAKING YOUR FIRST COMPANY PUBLIC BEFORE YOU TURN THIRTY.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU? THINK YOU'LL BECOME A COP?
HEY, A CRIME'S A CRIME.
IF YOU'RE HARD UP FOR MONEY--
YES AND NO. I WAS STILL A COP, BUT YOU WEREN'T A BANK ROBBER.
Uh-huh...
INSTEAD, YOU WERE SOME SORT OF WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL. EMBEZZLING MONEY FROM A BANK.

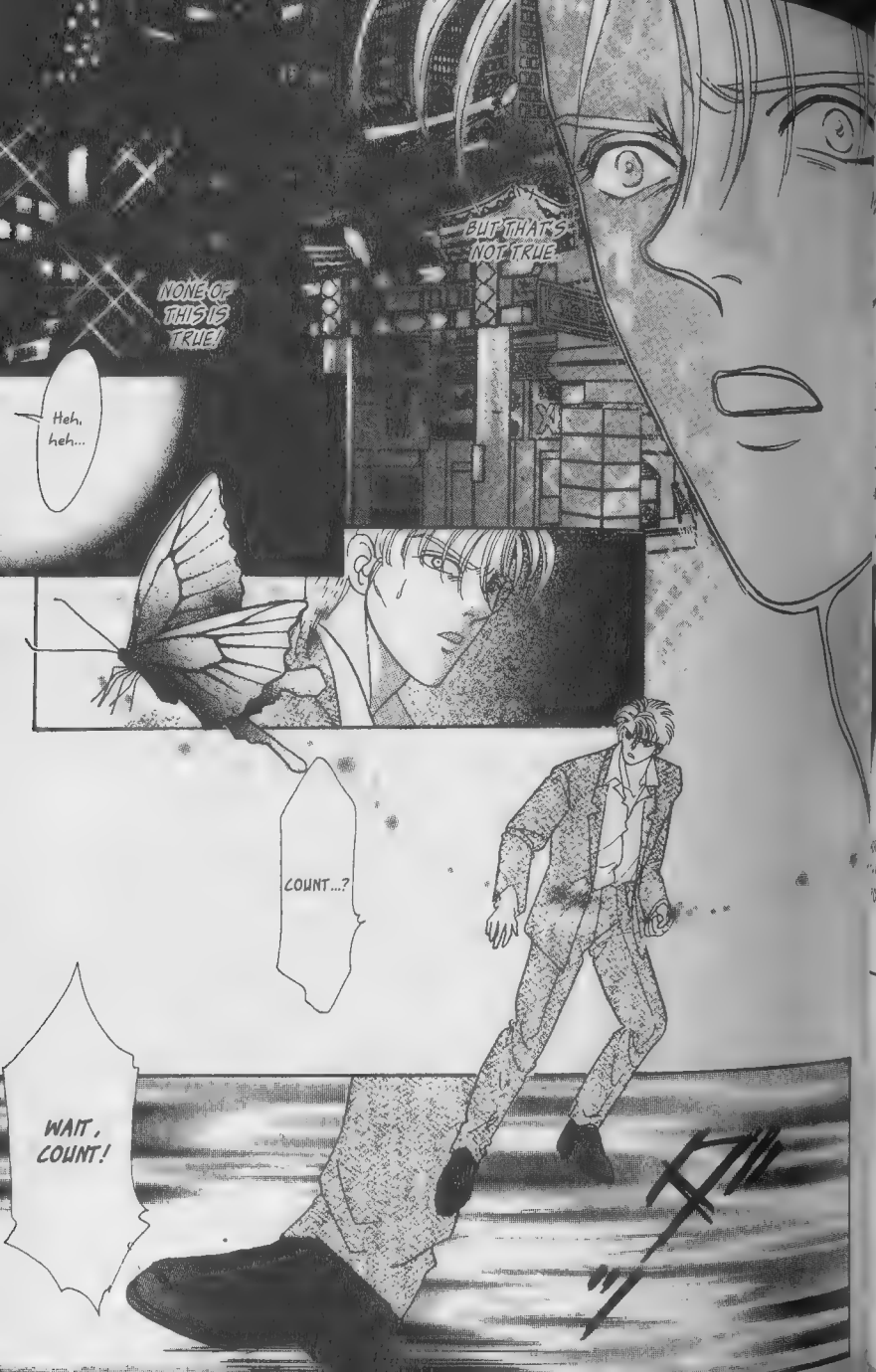
WHA?
CHIEF?!
ORCOT!
HERE'S THE PAPERWORK. NOW GET TO WORK!
NOW, AS YOUR BRANCH MANAGER, IT'S MY DUTY TO INFORM YOU THAT IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO RECONCILE THEM BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY, YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT "CHIEF" NONSENSE. YOUR ACCOUNTS ARE SHORT AGAIN.
BALANCE SHEET REPORTS?!
BRANCH MANAGER?
CENTRAL CITY BANK
NAH...
IT'S DANGEROUS, HARD WORK, AND THE PAY SUCKS.
MOST PEOPLE HATE YOU.
AND HAVE YOU SEEN THE GIRLS ON THE FORCE? YEESH!
There's no way I'd work in law enforcement.
LOOK, I JUST WANT A JOB THAT WILL GIVE ME A GOOD, STEADY INCOME. THAT'S ALL.
I WANT TO GET MARRIED, RAISE A FEW KIDS, SEND THEM OFF TO COLLEGE, AND ENJOY A NICE, QUIET RETIREMENT.
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE I'LL BE THE ONE WORKING FOR A BANK.

FORGET IT. SO WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE PARTY? MR. WOOD'S DAUGHTER SEEMED TO TAKE QUITE AN INTEREST IN YOU...
WOOD... IS IN THE COMPANY'S TOP SHAREHOLDER?
WELL, THIS REPORT...
YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD, LEON. WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME? WE ALL HAD A LATE NIGHT LAST NIGHT.
SIGH...
CUT IT OUT LEON...
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN SHOT.
THOSE WERE JUST DREAMS
SHOULD HAVE SCARS, SHOULDN'T I?
I'VE BEEN SHOT IN THE ARM.
THE STOMACH THE LEG THE SHOULDER
KA TA KA TA KA TA
RRRRR...
ANYHOW, GOOD LUCK. AND GO HOME, ALREADY!
A FELLA WERE TO BAG A BROAD LIKE THAT, IT COULD ONLY HELP HIS CAREER. SHE'S NOT BAD ON THE EYES, EITHER.
THANKS

DID YOU ALREADY PUT HIM TO BED?
WHERE'S CHRIS?
TEA
...
LEON...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
D!!
OPEN UP!!
HEY, D!!
COUNT D
LITTLE BROTHER?
LEON, YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE AN ONLY CHILD.
WHAT?!
WHO?
QUIT MESSING AROUND.
CHRISTOPHER, MY LITTLE BROTHER... WHERE IS HE?
I'M WEARING A TIE, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! I DIDN'T EVEN THINK I OWNED A TIE!
FORGET ABOUT THAT. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME.
WHAT SORT OF MAD SCHEME HAVE YOU PULLED ME INTO THIS TIME?
.....
NOW, NOW... PLEASE CALM YOURSELF.
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.

HUH?
WHAT'S WITH YOU, MAN? I'M SICK OF YOU ZONIN' OUT ON US.
HEY, LEON!
WH-WHAT?
MAN, YOUR ASS HAD BETTER NOT BE STONED. YOU DO THAT SHIT, YOU DO IT ON YOUR OWN TIME. YOU HEAR ME?
NOW, I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DO BUSINESS UP IN THAT WHITE-COLLAR WORLD OF YOURS, BUT WHEN YOU RUN WITH MY CREW, YOU ACT LIKE A FUCKING PROFESSIONAL!
HEY!
THE DISRESPECT YOU SHOW YOUR POOR MOTHER IS ASTONISHING.
CUT IT OUT, COUNT.
YOU KNOW I HAVE A BROTHER. OUR MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS BORN AND NOW HE LIVES WITH ME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDA GAME YOU'RE PLAYIN' HERE, BUT IT'S NOT FUNNY.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT'S


THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THAT, WHITE COLLAR? GOOD! HERE'S YOUR MOTHERFUCKIN' GUN.
HEIST?!
NOW, WE'RE GONNA SIT DOWN AND WE'RE GONNA MAP THIS HEIST OUT TO THE LAST MOTHERFUCKIN' MINUTE, DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
YOU'RE GONNA GET US PAST THE ALARMS TOMORROW WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR DAILY DROP. ONCE IN, MOSES HERE WILL GUARD THE DOOR.
TONY AND BILL, YOU TWO ARE ON CROWD CONTROL. I DON'T WANT ANYONE AT THAT BANK DEVELOPING A FUCKIN' HERO COMPLEX. YOU TWO MAKE SURE THAT DON'T HAPPEN. IF THEY HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, MOSES, I DON'T WANT YOU HELPING THEM. YOUR ASS STAYS IN THE DOOR. I DON'T WANT ANYONE COMING IN OR OUT, YOU HEAR ME?
WHILE THEY DO ALL THAT, WHITE COLLAR AND I--THAT'S YOU, LEON--WILL COLLECT THE CASH FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER. YOU DO REMEMBER HOW TO DO THAT, DON'T YOU, WHITE COLLAR? AND SEEIN' HOW YOU WORK AT A BANK, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BRIEF YOU ON PAINT CANISTERS NOW, SHOULD I?
WE DO ALL THAT AND WE'RE OUTTA THERE IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES. TRISH WILL BE WAITING ROUND BACK IN THE CAR TO GET US THE HELL OUTTA DODGE.
COUNT!
HEY, COUNT D, OPEN UP!!


NONE OF THIS IS TRUE!
BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE!
Heh, heh...
COUNT...?
WAIT, COUNT!

WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
YEAH, HE RUNS THIS PET SHOP.
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHERE'S COUNT D?!
COUNT?
WHY THAT LITTLE...!! HE SKIPPED OUT ON HIS SHOP.
PARDON? THIS RESTAURANT HAS DONE BUSINESS HERE FOR DECADES.
AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE IS NO PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN.

PUT YOUR GUN DOWN...
...AND TURN AROUND! NOW!!
I'M GONNA GET SHOT!
STOP!!
ファン
ファン
ファン
HUH !
CLICK
huff
huff
huff
huff
huuff
WHERE AM I?
WHY AM I RUNNING?

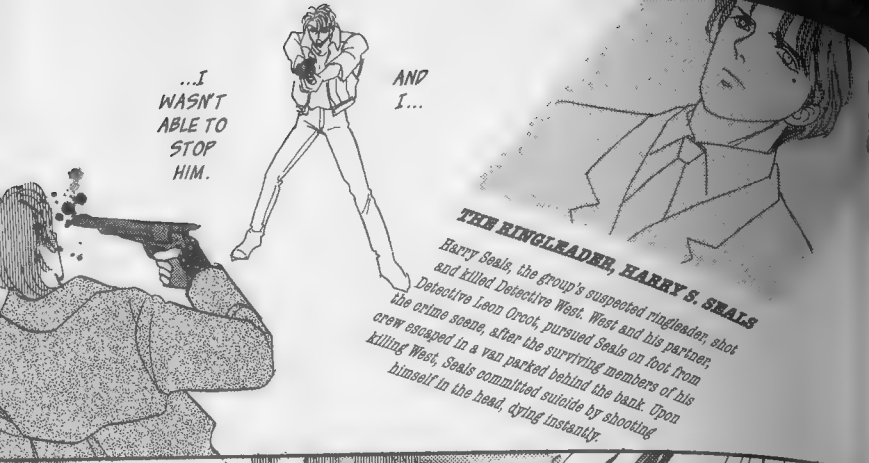
LEON, WHY?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
WHY?
YEAH...
WHY AM I DOING THIS?
WAIT A MINUTE... HARRY?
SHIT!
MAX?!
MAX!!

OH GOD, LEON!!
LEEEOOON

AND MOST IMPORTANT
...YOU WANTED TO DIE INSTEAD OF YOUR OLD FRIEND.
SUCH A FOOLISH DESIRE...
THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, WASN'T IT?
FLAP
YOU WANTED THINGS TO BE DIFFERENT.
YOU WANTED TO HAVE A NORMAL, QUIET JOB.
YOU WANTED TO AVOID BEING ASKED TO KILL.

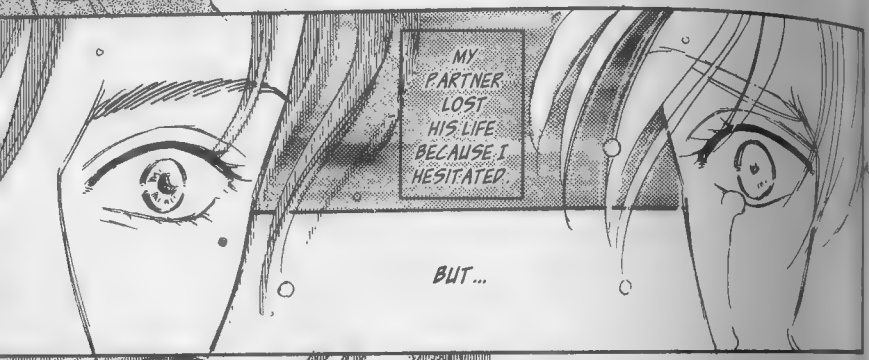
OH MY GOD, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!
UH, LEON?
CHRIS!
OW! THAT HURTS, BIG BRO!
What's there?
ALL OF 'EM!
THEY'RE THERE!
THE COUNT SAID...
...TO CALL YOU OVER FOR BREAKFAST IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE. WHATEVER THAT MEANS. I MEAN, YOU'D THINK HE'D SAY "IF YOUR BROTHER'S AWAKE."
If he's dead leave him
D? HMM...
ARE YOU AND COUNT D IN ANOTHER FIGHT?

YEOWCH!!!
HEY, BIG BRO!
CHRIS?!
C...
CHOMP



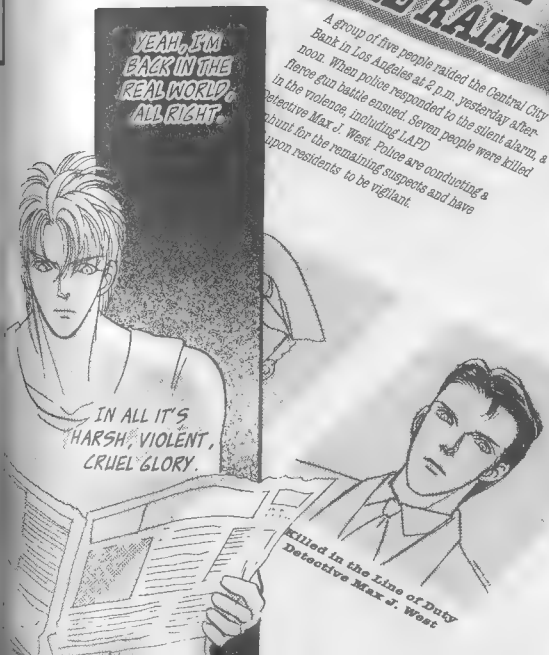
THE RINGLEADER, HARRY S. SEALS

Harry Seals, the group's suspected ringleader, shot and killed Detective West. West and his partner, Detective Leon Orcot, pursued Seals on foot from the crime scene, after the surviving members of his crew escaped in a van parked behind the bank. Upon killing West, Seals committed suicide by shooting himself in the head, dying instantly.



GUNFIGHT IN THE RAIN

A group of five people raided the Central City Bank in Los Angeles at 2 p.m. yesterday afternoon. When police responded to the silent alarm, a fierce gun battle ensued. Seven people were killed in the violence, including LAPD Detective Max J. West. Police are conducting a hunt for the remaining suspects and have cautioned residents to be vigilant.


YEAH, I'M BACK IN THE REAL WORLD, ALL RIGHT.
IN ALL IT'S HARSH, VIOLENT, CRUEL GLORY.
Killed in the Line of Duty
Detective Max J. West

MY CHILD
YOU MUST GROW UP SOON.
...IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO PUT THE TOYS OF CHILDHOOD BEHIND AND BECOME AN ADULT.
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OLDER BROTHER...
YES, FATHER.
BE PATIENT, DA GEH...
I WILL GROW UP SOON.
AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN AT LAST, YOU AND I MEET...

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE.
AND I DON'T SEE ANY REASON WHY I CAN'T.

Pet Shop of Horrors
ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ
第2話 Donor

THE OPERATION IS A QUICK FIX UNTIL THEY FIND A HUMAN DONOR.
IT'S IMPRESSIVE, BUT UNTIL THEY'RE ABLE TO GIVE OUR FRIEND D HERE A PERSONALITY TRANSPLANT, I'M NOT ALL THAT INTERESTED IN MEDICAL SCIENCE.
BABOON?
YEAH, IT'S A TYPE OF MONKEY.
I GUESS WE KNOW WHY HE FLED.
STILL, IF YOU'RE GONNA HAVE AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT, I'D FEEL MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE IN THE HANDS OF AN AMERICAN DOCTOR THAN A CORONAN ONE.
I TOOK THE MORNING OFF SO I COULD HAVE BREAKFAST WITH YOU AND CHRIS. I'M GLAD I DID TOO. WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING HIM?
Yeesh! Someone's cranky this morning...
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE THIS LATE? DON'T YOU WORK TODAY?!
MR. DETECTIVE, WILL YOU KINDLY REFRAIN FROM READING THE NEWSPAPER AT MEALTIME?!
COUNT D
High blood pressure already runs in the family.
HE NEEDS PLENTY OF PROTEIN.
CHRIS IS A GROWING BOY.
HUH?
"A MOTH TO A FLAME"?
...IS LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME.
IF YOU ASK ME...
I'D SAY THAT EACH SUCCESSFUL STEP MANKIND MAKES IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE...
THE FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER OF CORONA, WHO FLED FROM HIS COUNTRY LAST MONTH, WILL UNDERGO HEART TRANSPLANT SURGERY AT A LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL TOMORROW.
AND GET THIS... THEY'RE GONNA GIVE THE GUY A BABOON'S HEART. FITTING, CONSIDERING THE GUY COMES FROM A BANANA REPUBLIC.
HMM...
WHAT'S THIS?

PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL USE ALL OUR RESOURCES TO FIND THE BABOON.
NO, WE DON'T, SIR.
DOES AMERICA WANT ME TO DIE?!
PLEASE, GENERAL, YOU MUST STAY CALM.
AAAH!
IT DOES SEEM LIKE HIS M.O.
WATCH YOURSELF, LEON.
ASSHOLE
STARTS A CIVIL WAR IN HIS OWN COUNTRY THAT KILLS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, THEN BLAMES THE UNITED STATES WHEN HIS DAMN MONKEY GOES MISSING. YOU REALIZE THAT THE WORLD WOULD PROBAB... BE A LOT BETTER OFF IF WE DON'T FIND THAT BABOON
IT COULD BE AN ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP. GOD KNOWS IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SOMEONE HAD TO HAVE TAKEN IT.
THE BABOON ESCAPED?
HE'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF PERSON WHO WOULD START A WAR JUST TO SAVE A MONKEY.
.....
LET ME GUESS... COUNT D?
DON'T WORRY. I INTEND TO DO MY JOB. I ALREADY HAVE A SUSPECT LINED UP.
HE ALSO HAS A BIG POCKETBOOK. AS SILLY AS IT SOUNDS, SOMEONE MIGHT INTEND TO HOLD THE BABOON FOR RANSOM.
NOT NECESSARILY. GENERAL GORAN HAS MANY ENEMIES. THIS COULD BE POLITICAL.

COUNT D?
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT'S WITH THE MAKEUP AND...
...THE...
...SCREAM?
Gah!
.....
.....
YOU...
...KNOW COUNT D?
HUH?
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
MAYBE THIS WILL FINALLY BE THE THING I NAIL HIM FOR.
HELLO, D!
HOW ABOUT YOU AND I TAKE A NICE LITTLE TRIP TO THE STATION?
!!
KYAAA!!

DA GEH ...
...I'VE FOUND YOU!!
The girl with the Lhasa Apso
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR CHRIS, HE'S AT CATHERINE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AND WON'T BE BACK UNTIL TONIGHT.
YO!
?
DO I HAVE A CUSTOMER?
NOPE, I'M LOOKING FOR YOU. AND SO IS SOMEONE ELSE, APPARENTLY.
NAH. C'MON IN!
TAP
KYU!!!

PROBABLY, BUT THE COUNT ISN'T ONE TO FREAK OUT.
HE LOOKED FRIGHTENED. AND IF THIS GIRL DID THAT TO HIM, THEN I'M WORRIED.
...BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SEEN THE COUNT FRIGHTENED BEFORE.
IMAGINE IF SOMEONE SHOWED UP AT YOUR DOORSTEP CLAIMING TO BE YOUR SIS. YOU'D FREAK!
IF THAT'S TRUE YOU CAN'T BLAME D FOR BEING WEIRDED OUT
Orcot!
...I kinda forgot.
OH, WELL... WITH ALL THE COMMOTION...
ENOUGH ABOUT COUNTESS D. WHAT ABOUT THE BABOON?
I SWEAR, YOU'D THINK THEY WERE TWINS.
THE WEIRD THING IS THAT IT WAS LIKE THE FIRST TIME THEY'D MET.
LIKE THE COUNT DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD A LITTLE SISTER.
COUNT D'S LITTLE SISTER?
I THINK D'S FAMILY KEPT HIS SISTER SECRET FROM HIM FOR SOME REASON.
I'M SO HAPPY!
I MEAN, CONSIDERING HOW LONG THESE TWO HAVE BEEN SEPARATED, IT REALLY DIDN'T FEEL LIKE WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.

I'LL BE BACK SOON.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
DA GEH...
I'M GOING TO GO MAKE SOME TEA.
I
.....
.....
DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED. WE'RE YOUR BROTHER'S FRIENDS.
WE BOTH WORK FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
WE'VE ALREADY MET...
I'M JILL, AND THIS IS LEON.
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NAME?
YEAH! YOUR NAME...
NUE EHR.
NUE...
NUE EHR?
WHY DO CHINESE NAMES ALWAYS HAVE TO SOUND SO DAMN WEIRD?
HELLO, YOU TWO!
Such a grownie
OH, MY! YOU DO LOOK ALIKE!
WHY, IT'S LIKE HOLDING UP A MIRROR! HOW ADORABLE.
That's one way of putting it. I think it's damn creepy.

DADDY ALWAYS CALLS ME...
...HIS LOVELY NUE EHR.
AND MY BROTHER...
...HAS ALWAYS BEEN CALLED DA GEH.
AND MENTALLY, SHE SEEMS HARDLY MORE THAN A CHILD.
HER ENGLISH ISN'T VERY GOOD.
DA GEH.
DA GEH?
THAT'S COUNT D'S REAL NAME?
HEY, NUE EHR-CHAN.
WHAT'S YOUR BROTHER'S NAME?
LET'S SEE... HOW DO YOU SAY "NAME"? AH! REN MIN.
UNDERSTAND?
A LITTLE. IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN LEARN WHEN YOU DON'T SPEND HALF YOUR EVENINGS SEARCHING THE NET FOR FREE PORN.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
?
"NUE EHR" MEANS "DAUGHTER" IN CHINESE. "DA GEH" MEANS "OLDER BROTHER."
NO, YOU IDIOT!
YOU SPEAK CHINESE?

AH...
UH...
YEAH.
WE'RE FRIENDS.
GOOD FRIENDS.
IF YOU'RE DA GEH'S FRIEND THEN...
...WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND TOO?
HUH?!
A BIT TOO MUCH, IF YOU ASK ME. I THINK D MAY BE MESSING WITH ME AGAIN.
THIS IS GETTING WAY TOO WEIRD.
SHE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE THE COUNT...

TUG
YEAH?
LEON-SAN?
HUH?
UM, I'M, UH...
ARE YOU DA GEH'S FRIEND?
COUNT D IS SO INTELLIGENT, IT SEEMS ODD THAT HIS SISTER WOULD BE SO SIMPLE-MINDED.
AH, HELL! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE SHE'S RETARDED OR SOMETHING.
TELL ME ABOUT DA GEH.
I HARDLY KNOW MY BROTHER. THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK HIM.
OWW!
YOU IDIOT, SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THAT!
LEON!
OH, WELL, LET ME TELL YOU ALL ABOUT YOUR BROTHER. HE'S UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR OVER A DOZEN VIOLATIONS RANGING FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING TO SLAVE TRADING AND HE'S THE NUMBER ONE SUSPECT IN EIGHT UNSOLVED HOMICIDES.

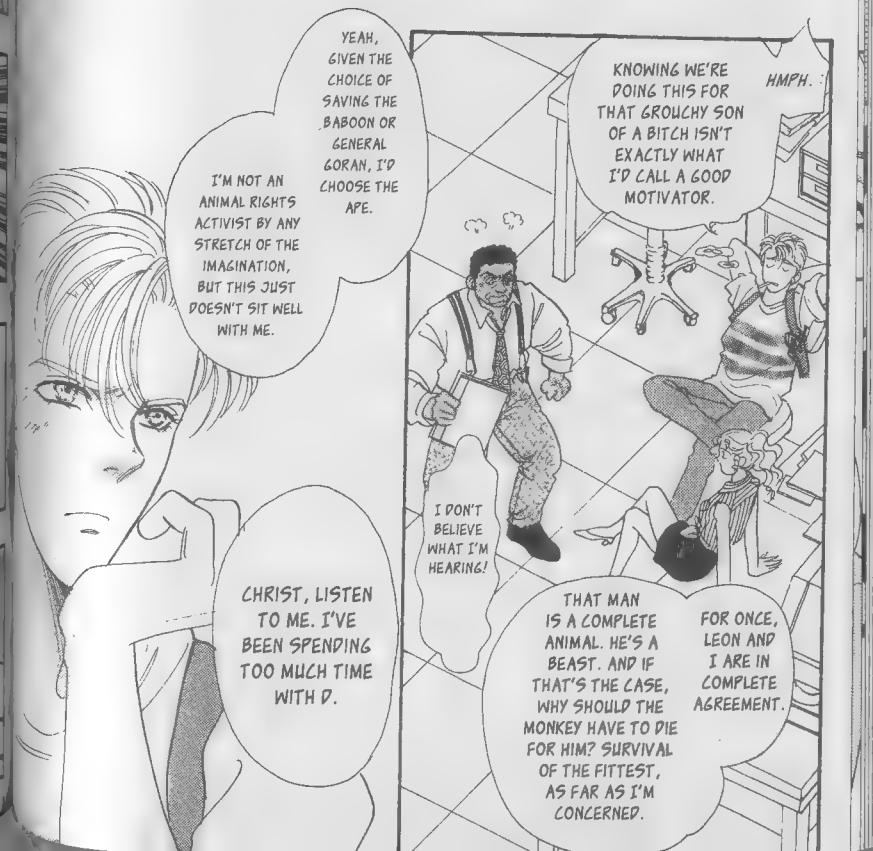
...TO MY XIAO MEI?!*
* little sister
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
PIG.
XIAO MEI...
WE JUST STOPPED BY TO ASK IF YOU KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE GENERAL'S MISSING BABOON, BUT I CAN TELL YOU'VE BEEN RATHER PREOCCUPIED. STILL, IF YOU SHOULD HEAR ANYTHING, PLEASE LET US KNOW. HAVE A GOOD DAY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, D. WE NEED TO GET GOING, ANYWAY.
Y-YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSSSAULTING AN OFFISHER.
CUT IT OUT, LEON. WE'RE GOING.
HMPH.

OF COURSE, FIGURING OUT WHETHER YOU'RE COUNT D IN DRAG SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH.

XIAO MEI...
IT GOT TO BE TOO MUCH. I HAD TO SNEAK OVER HERE AND MEET YOU FOR MYSELF.
ONLY, NOW I'M WORRIED ABOUT DADDY. HE'S GOING TO BE VERY MAD WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHERE I'VE BEEN.
YOU CALLED ME XIAO MEI.
SAY IT AGAIN.
DA GEH, I'M SO HAPPY!!
XIAO MEI...
YOU CAN STAY HERE.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO DADDY.
FROM NOW ON...
...YOU CAN LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AS YOU SEE FIT.
HE TALKS ABOUT YOU A LOT, YOU KNOW.
DADDY'S ALWAYS SAYING HOW HE WISHES HE COULD SEE YOU AGAIN.
FATHER...
EVER SINCE DADDY FIRST TOLD ME ABOUT YOU, I WANTED TO MEET YOU.
I LOVE YOU, DA GEH.

IT MEANS YOU'RE THROWING YOURSELF INTO DANGER.
.....
Why do you ask?
MOTHS INSTINCTIVELY FLY TOWARDS ANY BRIGHT LIGHT, AND AS A RESULT, WOULDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT FLYING INTO AN OPEN FLAME.
HMM...
A MOTH TO A FLAME?
IF SOMETHING IS LIKE "A MOTH TO A FLAME," WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHICH REMINDS ME...
A RESIDENT OF THE OAK RIDGE APARTMENT COMPLEX SAYS HE'S BEEN HEARING MONKEY SOUNDS FROM THE APARTMENT NEXT TO HIM ALL MORNING LONG.
WE GOT A TIP!
.....
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
GET GOING, NOW!
UH...
SURE, BOSS.

RIGHT NOW, THE ENTIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS ON ALERT. WE'VE ISSUED A REWARD FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT ASSISTS US IN LOCATING THE BABOON. WE HAVE TWO OF OUR BEST DETECTIVES WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK ON THIS.
General, please calm down...
THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE FREE WORLD, AND YOU CAN'T FIND ONE LOUSY MONKEY?!


YEAH, GIVEN THE CHOICE OF SAVING THE BABOON OR GENERAL GORAN, I'D CHOOSE THE APE.
I'M NOT AN ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, BUT THIS JUST DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.
CHRIST, LISTEN TO ME. I'VE BEEN SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME WITH D.
HMPH.
KNOWING WE'RE DOING THIS FOR THAT GROUCHY SON OF A BITCH ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I'D CALL A GOOD MOTIVATOR.
I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M HEARING!
THAT MAN IS A COMPLETE ANIMAL. HE'S A BEAST. AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY SHOULD THE MONKEY HAVE TO DIE FOR HIM? SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
FOR ONCE, LEON AND I ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

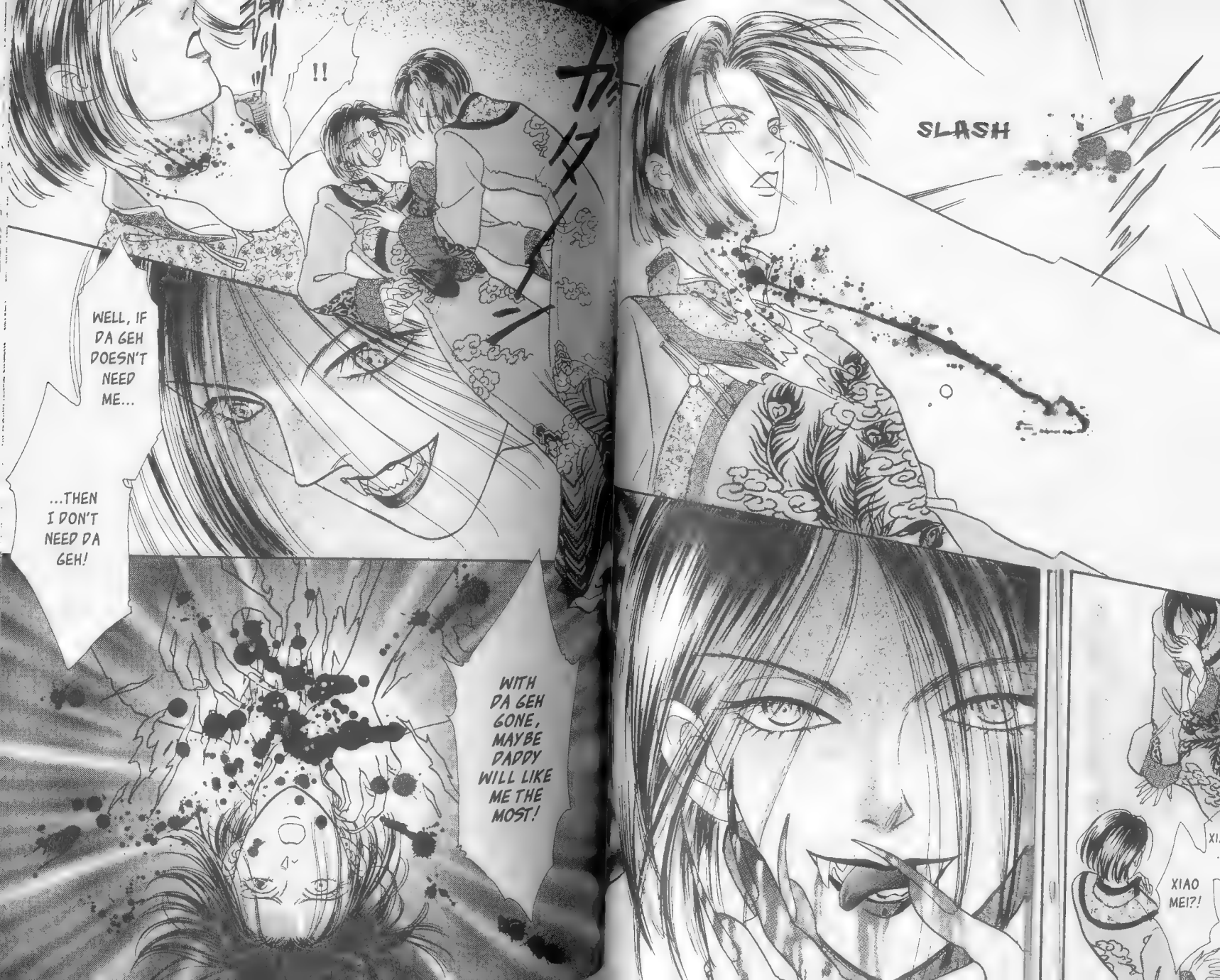
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I HAD A SISTER UNTIL A DAY AGO.
I NEVER ASKED FOR SUCH A THING. YOU MUST NOT BELIEVE IT!
XIAO MEI!
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
BUT...
...WHAT ABOUT YOU? DADDY ALWAYS SAID...
XIAO MEI...
...LISTEN TO ME. FROM NOW ON, IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO LIVE ANY WAY YOU'D LIKE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYONE.
..FOR YOUR DA GEH'S SAKE.
NUE EHR, GROW UP SOON...
YOU DON'T... LOVE ME?
YOU DON'T NEED ME?
...GROW UP SOON.
FOR MY BELOVED SON...
NEVER FORGET, IT WAS FOR HIM THAT YOU WERE BORN.

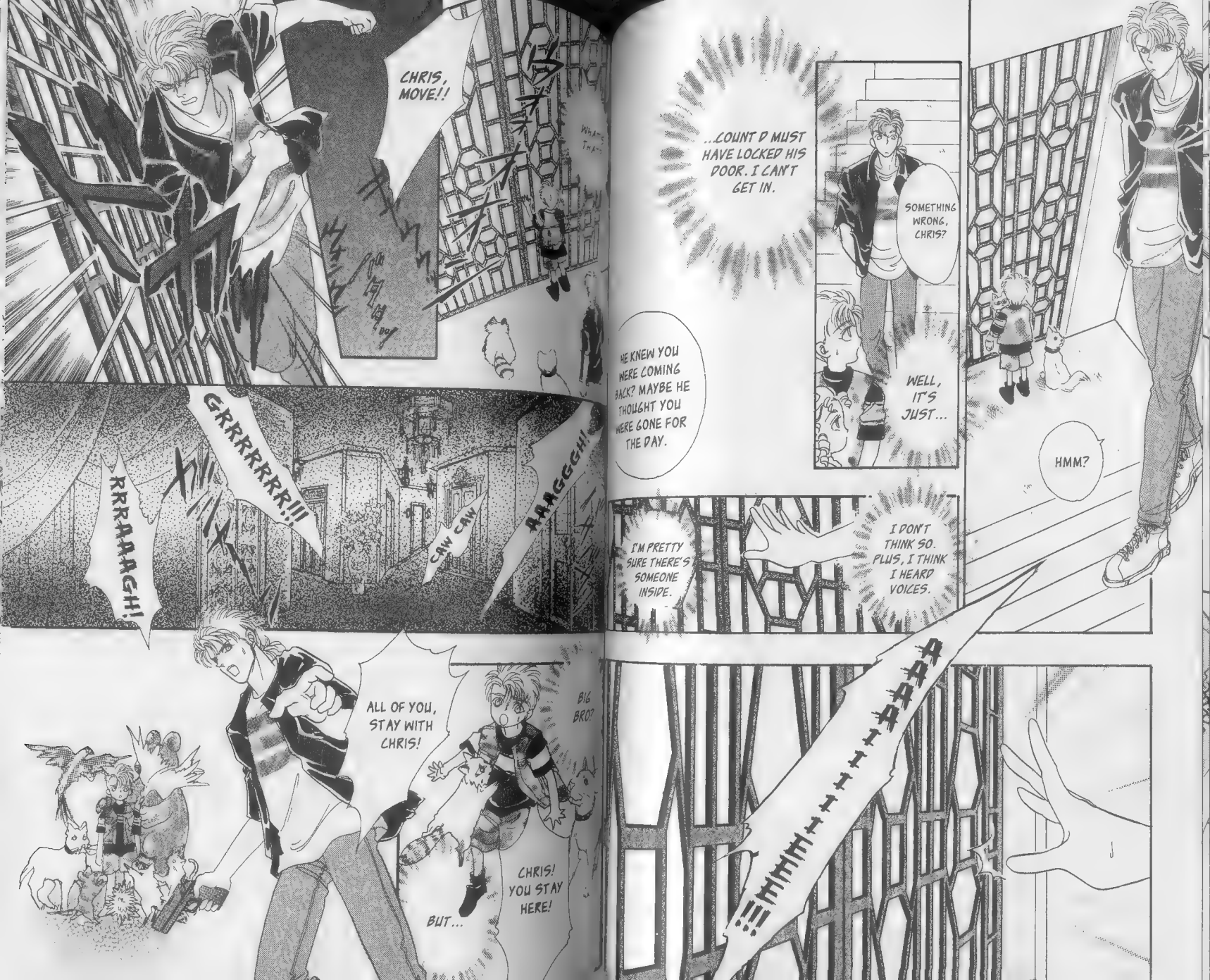
EEGH!
BEDROOM AND BATHROOM--BOTH CLEAR!!!
THE MONKEY'S SAFE.
D-DON'T SHOOT! PLEASE!!
AAAGH-
OOGHH!
OKAY, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN HERE. IT COULD BE A SQUAD OF CORONAN GUERILLAS, OR JUST A ROOMFUL OF GORILLAS. UH...
THE POINT IS...BE CAREFUL
OOGH!
HERE?
OKAY, LET'S GO!!
LAPD! NOBODY MOVE!!
PUT YOUR HANDS UP!
SHE NEEDS A TRANSPLANT... BADLY. SHE WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER WITHOUT ONE. MAYBE A F-FEW MONTHS...IF THAT.
...FOR MY DAUGHTER. SHE'S HAD HEART DISEASE SINCE SHE WAS BORN.
FOR...
YOU'RE ALONE?
WHAT'D YOU DO THIS FOR?
SO WHEN I SAW THE MONKEY ON THE NEWS...WELL, I GUESS I JUST...JUST... SOB...
I LOVE MY DAUGHTER, BUT I-I JUST DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT YOU DID IS STILL AGAINST THE LAW.
IT KILLS ME TO HAVE TO DO THIS, AND BELIEVE ME, I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP YOU.
YOUR HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE. IT'S OBVIOUS YOU LOVE YOUR DAUGHTER, AND I CAN'T FAULT YOU FOR THAT.
...I MIGHT'VE DONE THE SAME THING.
SHIT. IF IT WAS CHRIS'S LIFE ON THE LINE...
フア...
フア...
フア...
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, YOUR DAUGHTER WOULD REJECT THIS HEART.
SOB...
OH, GOD...
EEEGH
FINDING A HUMAN DONOR IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH, EVEN IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT. FINDING A NON-HUMAN HEART...WELL, THAT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
SIR, I REALIZE YOU WERE JUST THINKING OF YOUR DAUGHTER, BUT THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED HER. A HEART TRANSPLANT IS A DELICATE PROCEDURE. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF COMPATIBILITY TESTS THE HEART MUST GO THROUGH.
DADDY?
BYE, MR. MONKEY. I'LL MISS YOU.
MAYBE WHEN I GET BETTER I CAN COME PLAY WITH YOU!
OOOOH...
ARE THESE PEOPLE TAKING MR. MONKEY?

I'LL GIVE IT ALL TO YOU, DA GEH...
MY EYES AND LIPS...
MY BONES...
MY BLOOD... MY FLESH...
MY HEART ITSELF, IF YOU NEED IT.
I'LL GIVE IT ALL TO YOU. ANYTHING YOU WISH--
STOP IT!!
GROW UP QUICKLY.
THAT'S... YOU W-S... SAVE... BROT-ER... NEEDS...
HE NEEDS YOU TO PROVIDE HIM WITH WHAT HE LACKS.
YES, DADDY.
WHY?!
WHY DON'T YOU NEED ME?!
DO YOU HATE ME?!
THAT'S NOT IT, XIAO MEI.
THAT'S NOT IT AT--
AGH!
DA GEH?!
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU IN PAIN?
SO IT'S TRUE.
NUE EHR...
...DA GEH'S BODY WAS BORN INCOMPLETE.
IT'S JUST LIKE DADDY SAID.
DA GEH IS SICK.

XIAO MEI...
...I...I'M SORRY.
MY PURPOSE IN LIFE WAS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH WHATEVER YOU MIGHT NEED.
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?
NOW LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY...
DA GEH... DOESN'T NEED...ME?


!!
WELL, IF DA GEH DOESN'T NEED ME...
...THEN I DON'T NEED DA GEH!
WITH DA GEH GONE, MAYBE DADDY WILL LIKE ME THE MOST!
SLASH
XIAO MEI?!


CHRIS, MOVE!!
...COUNT D MUST HAVE LOCKED HIS DOOR. I CAN'T GET IN.
SOMETHING WRONG, CHRIS?
WELL, IT'S JUST...
HMM?
HE KNEW YOU WERE COMING BACK? MAYBE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FOR THE DAY.
I'M PRETTY SURE THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE.
I DON'T THINK SO. PLUS, I THINK I HEARD VOICES.
GRRRRRR!!!
CAW CAW
AAAGGGH!
RRRAAAGH!
ALL OF YOU, STAY WITH CHRIS!
BIG BRO?
CHRIS! YOU STAY HERE!
BUT...
AAAA

D?!
THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, D?!
HOW COULD YOU LET THEM GO WILD LIKE THIS? JESUS!
WHAT IS THAT THING?
Is it dead?
THIS IS AN ORANGUTAN.
IT'S A TYPE OF MONKEY...
...FROM ANCIENT CHINA.

WELL, IT'S OFFICIAL.
OUR FRIEND GOLAN WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT FIVE O'CLOCK THIS EVENING.
...AND SOME TERRORIST FROM HIS OWN COUNTRY GOES AND SHOOTS HIM, JUST LIKE THAT.
GO FIGURE. ALL THAT FUSS OVER THE TRANSPLANT. ALL THE PROTESTS, ALL THE THREATS...
AND WITH THE GENERAL DEAD, GUESS WHO THE HEART'S GOING TO? THAT'S RIGHT, THE DAUGHTER OF THE GUY WHO STOLE THE BABOON.
.....
BUT THIS CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING. JUST BEFORE HE DIED, THEY MANAGED TO FIND A HUMAN DONOR.
GOOD.
I'M VERY PLEASED WITH YOUR RECOVERY, GENERAL. YOU SHOULD BE FINE UNTIL WE'RE ABLE TO LOCATE A HUMAN DONOR.
GOLAN HEART TRANSPLANT A SUCCESS
RECOVERING WELL AFTER SURGERY
THUD

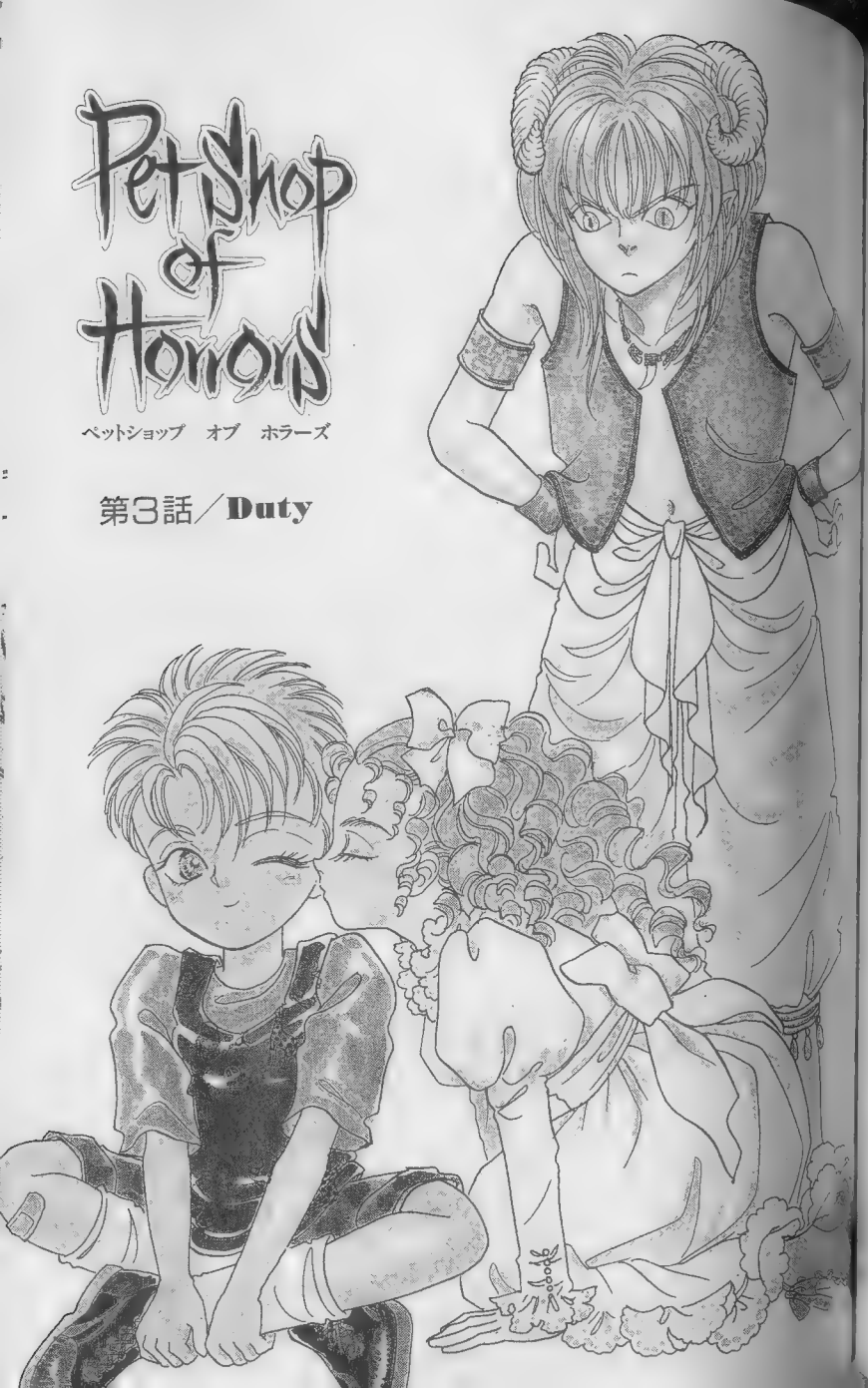
SO I DRINK THIS IN HER NAME.
AND I SAVOR EVERY LAST DROP.
IT'S QUITE STRONG ...
...AND BITTER.
What's This Color...
IT LOOKS LIKE CRANBERRY JUICE.
THIS? NO, IT'S NOT JUICE.
THIS IS...MY MEDICINE.
BUT THE WOUND THAT I MUST HEAL IS VERY DEEP.
SHE HAS RETURNED HOME...
...TO FATHER.
SO HOW'S YOUR SISTER? WITH ALL THE EXCITEMENT, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HER.
YEAH, COUNT, I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING HER.
Funny. the difference a nice pair of jugs can make.
IT IS KINDA STRANGE THAT I'D FIND HER SO ATTRACTIVE. AFTER ALL, SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU.
DAMN. I WAS REALLY HOPING I'D GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO HER SOME MORE. I MEAN, NO OFFENSE, COUNT, BUT SHE'S WAY CUTER THAN YOU ARE.
Oh yeah?
LEON'S COMMENTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, I'M GOING TO KEEP TO MYSELF.
I'LL TELL HER THAT IF I SEE HER, CHRIS. IT WILL PROBABLY MAKE HER DAY.

End of Episode 2

Pet Shop of Horrors

ペットショップ　オブ　ホラーズ

第3話／Duty



DID YOU HEAR THAT?
IT SOUNDED LIKE A GUNSHOT.
AAIIIIEEE!!
OH MY GOD!!! SOME-ONE CALL THE POLICE!
Hotel D
WELL, WELL, WELL... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? MMM... THE AGENCY DIDN'T SAY THEY WERE SENDING SOMEONE NEW.
AND SOMEONE SO YOUNG, AT THAT. YOU SURE YOU'RE EIGHTEEN?
WELL, YOU DON'T TALK MUCH, BUT I CAN TELL WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG JUST FINE.
OH YES, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BECOME REAL GOOD FRIENDS.
WAIT A MINUTE... YOU'RE A...

AH...
POOR LITTLE DEAR...
YES, YES, I KNOW. IS IT YOUR DIAPER? OR MAYBE YOU'D LIKE SOME MILK?
THANK YOU, CHRIS. I THINK HE'S HUNGRY.
NO PROBLEM.
THERE YOU GO, LITTLE ONE. ARE YOU HUNGRY?
COUNT 8
sigh...
WELL, IT IS, BUT IT'S PART OF THE JOB.
THAT SAID, IT CAN TAKE A LOT OUT OF YOU.
THINGS SEEM PRETTY CRAZY OUTSIDE TOO.
NO KIDDING. IF WE CAN HEAR THE SIRENS OVER THE BRATS, YOU KNOW IT'S GOTTA BE SERIOUS.
YOU DIDN'T SNEAK OUT AGAIN LAST NIGHT, DID YOU, T-CHAN?
WELL, IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME TO SHUT DOWN FOR THE DAY.
Huh?

!!
THAT SMELL...I RECOGNIZE IT..IT SMELLS LIKE...BLOOD.
IS SOMEONE THERE?

THAT'S JUST ABOUT IT, BUT LET ME MAKE ONE FINAL THING CLEAR TO YOU. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THIS KID. HE MAY LOOK HARMLESS, BUT HAVE NO DOUBT, THE MAN WE'RE LOOKING FOR...
...IS A PROFESSIONAL KILLER!!
AT ANY RATE, THIS SUSPECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS, AND CAUTION SHOULD BE USED IN APPREHENDING HIM. I WANT HIM BROUGHT IN QUICKLY AND SAFELY, BOYS AND GIRLS.
THERE'S ONE THING THAT MIGHT MAKE THAT DIFFICULT. ONE OF THE WITNESSES TOLD THE RESPONDING OFFICER THAT THE SUSPECT WAS HOLDING HIS ARM AND APPEARED TO BE IN PAIN. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK, POSSIBLY EVEN SUSTAINING A GUNSHOT WOUND HIMSELF.
DON'T BE THROWN BY HIS YOUTH THIS KID KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING THE GUNSHOT TO MR. CAPRIONE WAS DELIVERED EFFICIENTLY, RIGHT WHERE IT WOULD DO THE MOST DAMAGE
BY ALL INDICATIONS, AND CONSIDERING CAPRIONE'S LINE OF WORK, IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WE'RE DEALING WITH A CONTRACT JOB HERE. FINDING THE WORMS WHO SIGNED THE CONTRACT FALLS UNDER FBI JURISDICTION. IT'S THEIR PROBLEM, LET THEM HANDLE IT.
WE'RE TO FOCUS ONLY ON BRINGING IN THE PERP.
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS, LISTEN UP!
WE HAVE A SHOOTING AT THE HOTEL D ON SUNSET. BALLISTICS REPORT SAYS HE TOOK A .38 TO THE HEAD.
THE VICTIM'S NAME IS GEORGE CAPRIONE. NOW, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T READ THE PAPERS, CAPRIONE IS A BOSS IN THE VEGAS MOB. THAT MEANS A LOT OF VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE...
...ARE GOING TO BE VERY ANGRY...
...IF WE DON'T BRING SOMEONE IN FOR THIS QUICK. WE'RE TRYING TO PREVENT A GANG WAR HERE, FOLKS. FBI IS KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR PROGRESS AND MAY INTERVENE IF THEY THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE, BUT I'D PREFER IT NOT COME TO THAT.
WITNESSES PLACE HIM LEAVING THE BUILDING AT AROUND 1:20 IN THE AFTERNOON. HE'S WEARING A CHINESE PATTERNED SHIRT AND WHITE PANTS. IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO REALIZE THIS GUY'S GONNA TRY TO DISAPPEAR IN CHINATOWN.
THIS CASE SHOULD BE TREATED AS VERY HIGH-PRIORITY. I WANT EVERYONE IN HOMICIDE NOT WORKING AN ACTIVE CASE CONCENTRATING ON THIS ONE. THE SUSPECT IS AN ASIAN MALE, APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET, SIX INCHES TALL, WITH BLACK HAIR AND DARK EYES. ESTIMATED AGE IS BETWEEN 15 AND 18 YEARS OLD.

SAY THE WORD AND THIS GUY BECOMES LUNCH.
COUNT!
LOCK IT.
AND SHUT THOSE D'AMN THINGS UP, BEFORE I DO IT FOR YOU!
EASY, T-CHAN. NO ONE SHOULD BE CONCERNED.
THIS MAN IS A CUSTOMER.
I'VE ALREADY KILLED ONE PERSON TODAY...
...KILLING ANOTHER MAKES VERY LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO ME.
THIS ISN'T AN EMPTY THREAT
COUNT...
COUNT D?!
WHAT IS THIS?!
H-HEY, WAIT!
HUH?
SHHH...
YOU AND THE RUNT THE ONLY PEOPLE HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. A PET SHOP.

I MENTION THIS BECAUSE I THINK WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE MIGHT BE ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS. I THINK OUR KILLER MAY BE ONE OF SCORPIO'S CHILDREN.
NO, IT'S AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT KIDNAPS CHILDREN AND RAISES THEM AS ASSASSINS. FOR THE LONGEST TIME, THEY WERE SEEN AS LITTLE MORE THAN AN URBAN LEGEND. HOWEVER, RECENTLY THERE'S BEEN SOME PRETTY COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME TRUTH TO THE RUMORS. THAT SCORPIO'S CHILDREN MAY ACTUALLY EXIST.
IS THAT A METAL BAND?
LEON, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SCORPIO'S CHILDREN?
TURN UP ANYTHING
WE'VE SET ROADBLOCKS ON EVERY MAJOR STREET LEADING INTO OR OUT OF CHINATOWN. IF OUR BOY TRIES TO LEAVE...
NOT YET, DETECTIVE.
...WE'LL FIND HIM.
WELL, KEEP CHECKING THE HOMES AND SHOPS. I WANT OUR DRAWING OF THIS KID'S FACE ON EVERY STREET CORNER.
RIGHT.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A PROFESSIONAL HERE. A KILLER-FOR-HIRE.
IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN THE BACKSIDE OF YOUR BELT TO DEAL WITH THIS ONE.
YEAH, WELL THIS BRAT SHOT A MAFIA DON IN THE HEAD.
ALL THIS TO HUNT DOWN A KID. A SPOILED LITTLE BRAT.
YEAH, BUT HE'S STILL A KID. CHRIST, HE PROBABLY SPENDS THE MONEY HE MAKES FROM IT ON VIDEO GAMES.
THAT'S THE POINT. THE FACT THAT HE'S A KID JUST MAKES HIM A MORE EFFECTIVE KILLER. HE GETS YOU WHEN YOUR GUARD'S DOWN. AFTER ALL, NO ONE'S GONNA SUSPECT A KID.
NOT TO MENTION HE CAN PROBABLY PASS HIMSELF OFF AS A MESSENGER BOY OR--AS HE DID IN THIS CASE--A CALL GIRL.
WELL, THE GUY WAS LOOKING FOR A BANG.
HE JUST DIDN'T GET THE TYPE HE HAD IN MIND.
BODYGUARDS OR BULLETPROOF VESTS AREN'T GOING TO PROTECT YOU IN BED.

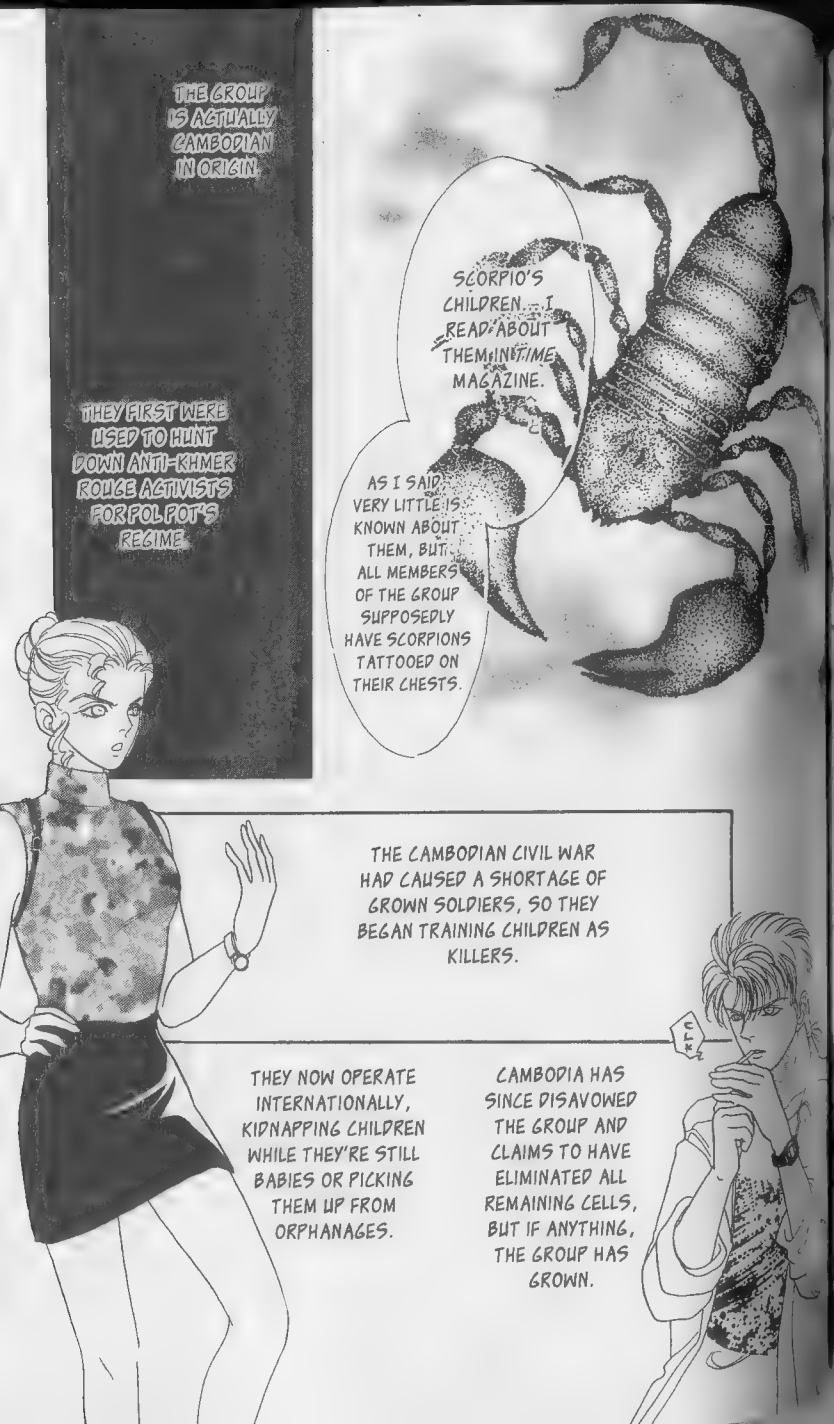
RRRRRRR
CLICK
R.
ACTUALLY, WE'VE ALREADY CLOSED FOR THE DAY.
COUNT D'S PET SHOP... AH, GOOD EVENING.
VERY WELL.
YES, IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT SOMETHING CAME UP. WE'LL BE OPEN AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING AT THE REGULAR TIME.
YES, OF COURSE CHRIS HAS BEEN GOOD.
FINE. ANSWER IT. BUT KEEP IT BRIEF.
RRRRRR
RRRRRR
DON'T ANSWER!
MY YOUNG MAN, I RUN A BUSINESS HERE. IT WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS FOR ME NOT TO PICK UP THE PHONE.
COUNT?
ガシャ
D'S BEEN AN ASSASSINATION SUSPECT BEFORE. CAN'T HURT TO SHAKE THINGS UP AT THE SHOP A BIT. SEE IF HE KNOWS ANYTHING.
RIGHT.
I'M GONNA CHECK ON OUR FRIEND THE COUNT.
BLOOD?!
IT'S STILL FRESH...

?
CHRIS AND COUNT D ARE FINE. IT'S THE SUSPECT WHO'S IN DANGER.
I DON'T KNOW, CHIEF. I THINK HE'S MORE WORRIED ABOUT D.
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BROTHER, LEON?
Idiot!
WHY, JUST THE OTHER DAY THEY WENT CRAZY AND TORE THIS HUGE MONKEY APART. I MEAN, REALLY RIPPED IT LIMB FROM LIMB.
NOT TO MENTION THE SHOP'S FILLED WITH FEROCIOUS ANIMALS.
NOW, NOW! THERE'S NO NEED TO LOOK SO FRIGHTENED. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
IF THAT KID SO MUCH AS LOOKS AT D WRONG, OUR PERPETRATOR BECOMES A VICTIM.
I DON'T DRINK TEA. AND YOU'RE NOT LEAVING MY SIGHT!

CLK
WELL, THEN, HAVE A PLEASANT EVENING, ORCOT-SAN.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
THE SUSPECT'S DEFINITELY IN THE PET SHOP.
THAT SETTLES IT.
OFFICERS, I WANT A PERIMETER SET UP AROUND THE PET SHOP, AND I WANT IT DONE YESTERDAY!
YES, SIR!
HARDLY THE MOST COMPELLING EVIDENCE, BUT I HAVE A FEELING YOU MAY BE RIGHT IN THIS CASE.
BECAUSE THE FIRST TIME HE TRIED IT, I TOLD HIM IF HE EVER CALLED ME ORCOT-SAN AGAIN I'D RUN HIS DAMN KIMONO THROUGH THE SHREDDER!

IT'S LIKE HE WAS EXPECTING ME OR SOMETHING.
MOST PEOPLE PANIC WHEN THEY FIND THEMSELVES AT THE END OF A PIECE. BUT THIS GUY HASN'T EVEN BROKEN A SWEAT.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE. THIS GUY'S WAY TOO CALM.
?!
HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--
IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR SUCH BEAUTIFUL SKIN TO BE SCARRED.

SHUT UP OR I SWEAR THIS KID'LL SWALLOW A BULLET.
.....
I'M AFRAID I MUST INSIST. THE SMELL OF YOUR BLOOD IS AGITATING MY ANIMALS.
WELL, I HOPE YOU'LL LET ME DRESS THAT WOUND, AT LEAST.
Good!
THAT MUST HURT...
IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO DRESS THE WOUND.
JUST HOLD STILL.
YOU WERE LUCKY. THE BULLET PASSED CLEAN THROUGH.


THE GROUP IS ACTUALLY CAMBODIAN IN ORIGIN.
THEY FIRST WERE USED TO HUNT DOWN ANTI-KHMER ROUGE ACTIVISTS FOR POL POT'S REGIME.
SCORPIO'S CHILDREN... I READ ABOUT THEM IN TIME MAGAZINE.
AS I SAID, VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THEM, BUT ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SUPPOSEDLY HAVE SCORPIONS TATTOOED ON THEIR CHESTS.
THE CAMBODIAN CIVIL WAR HAD CAUSED A SHORTAGE OF GROWN SOLDIERS, SO THEY BEGAN TRAINING CHILDREN AS KILLERS.
THEY NOW OPERATE INTERNATIONALLY, KIDNAPPING CHILDREN WHILE THEY'RE STILL BABIES OR PICKING THEM UP FROM ORPHANAGES.
CAMBODIA HAS SINCE DISAVOWED THE GROUP AND CLAIMS TO HAVE ELIMINATED ALL REMAINING CELLS, BUT IF ANYTHING, THE GROUP HAS GROWN.
CLINK

FOUND IT.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN ANY OF SCORPIO'S CHILDREN.

BUT IF THERE WAS NO ONE TO REACT TO OUR LAUGHING OR CRYING, WE'D EVENTUALLY STOP.

AS CHILDREN, WE LEARN THAT PEOPLE REACT TO US ONE WAY WHEN WE LAUGH, ANOTHER WAY WHEN WE CRY.

EVERYONE KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL INTERACTION. LAUGHING AND CRYING ARE A PART OF US FROM THE TIME THA- WE'RE BORN

ALL OF US LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE AND FUNCTION BY WATCHING THE PEOPLE AROUND US.

AS WE GROW OLDER, WE BEGIN TO LEARN DIFFERENT VARIATIONS WE LEARN HOW TO SMILE WITHOUT LAUGHING, HOW TO WEEP QUIETLY TO OURSELVES...

WE'D LOSE OUR ABILITY TO EXPRESS JOY, ANGER, SADNESS...

SCORPIO'S CHILDREN..

...HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO LAUGH OR CRY.

THEY HAVE NO EMOTION WHATSOEVER.

THEY'VE BECOME NO LESS THAN THE MOST EFFICIENT TEAM OF KILLERS ON THE PLANET.

THEY'RE TAUGHT TO WELCOME DEATH. WORSHIP IT. EVEN

THESE KIDS ARE RAISED IN A SOCIETY WITHOUT FRIENDS, FAMILY OR MORALS. THEY'RE SCHOOLED IN NOTHING BUT MURDER.

THEY LOSE ALL FEAR OF IT, WHETHER IT'S THE DEATH OF OTHERS OR THEIR OWN

THEY LOSE ALL SENSE OF CONSCIENCE

THAT'S SOME EDUCATION.

THEY'RE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. IT'S COMPLETELY HEARTLESS, BUT FRIGHTENINGLY EFFECTIVE.

THE WORST PART IS THE WAY THEY RECEIVE IT. THEY'RE LEFT TO GROW AND DEVELOP IN PRIVATE CELLS WITH NO HUMAN CONTACT OTHER THAN THEIR INSTRUCTORS.

DON'T BELIEVE WHAT ANYONE TELLS YOU! YOU HAVE NO FRIENDS!
THIS WORK IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS FOR A YOUNG ONE LIKE YOU. IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU CAN RETIRE.
LIVE YOUR LIFE IN PEACE AND AMONG FRIENDS.
SHUT UP...
I MEAN IT...
I'LL PROTECT YOU. KEEP YOU SAFE.
THE PEOPLE OUT THERE ARE YOUR ENEMY!
I WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU DESIRE.
DON'T TRUST THEM!
SHUT UP!!!
SO, MY CHILD, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD?
SUCH ATTITUDE! I LIKE THAT. YOU'RE JUST ADORABLE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY.
GODDAMMIT, MAN, I AIN'T MESSIN' WITH YOU.
MAN, YOU BETTER SHUT UP, 'LESS YOU WANT ME TO DO IT FOR YOU PERMANENTLY.
ME TOO.
I sure hope the Count knows what he's doing...
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT.
AND NEITHER AM I. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU, SO I'M OFFERING YOU MY SHOP AS A HIDEOUT. YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE.
IS THIS GUY FOR REAL?

WH-WHAT'S THAT?!
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU HAVE A KID?
WHAT'S THAT?
IS IT THE DIAPER THIS TIME?
I'M JUST TAKING CARE OF THEM FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
THEIR MOTHER'S NOT ABLE TO, SO I'M KEEPING AN EYE ON THEM.
THEY WERE... ABANDONED?
NO... NOT QUITE.
THEIR MOTHER IS SICK.
...AND WEAKNESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
SICKNESS IS NOT AN EXCUSE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT YOU FEEL SICK. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT YOU FEEL ANYTHING.
SICKNESS IS WEAKNESS ...

HE SMILED!
Gya!
Gya!
AFTER YOUR MISSION IS COMPLETE, YOU ARE TO RETURN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
YES, IT LEADS HOME.
ALTHOUGH CALLING IT THAT SOUNDS LIKE A SICK JOKE.
DOES THIS DUMP HAVE A BACK DOOR?
IT DOES, BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW WHERE IT LEADS.
IF YOU MUST FEEL SOMETHING, FEEL HATRED. HATRED FOR SOCIETY, HATRED FOR THE WORLD AND HATRED FOR THE MOTHER WHO ABANDONED YOU!
ナアアアア
ナアアアア
BOOGA BOOGA...
NOW, NOW...
HE'S TOO LOUD!
SHUT HIM UP.
WE'RE TRYING.
ナアアア

IF IT'S POSSIBLE, THEN WE NEED TO CAPTURE THIS ONE ALIVE.
PET SHOP, EH?
THIS AIN'T LIKE ANY PET SHOP I'VE EVER SEEN.
WHERE THE HELL'S THE BACK DOOR? HOW BIG IS THIS PLACE?!
IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT! WHEN WE CATCH THIS KID, HE'S GOING TO BE TRIED AS AN ADULT AND CONVICTED TO A LIFE IN PRISON. BUT IF HE WAS GIVEN A CHANCE TO REHABILITATE...
THESE KIDS ARE SAVAGE KILLERS, BUT THEY'RE ALSO VICTIMS. THEY'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED, STRIPPED OF EMOTION...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.
I DOUBT IT. I AGREE, THIS WHOLE THING IS SICK, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE KID WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS A MURDERER, AND MURDERERS MUST PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES.
...HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WE MAY BE SAVING THEM FROM ONE LIVING HELL, JUST TO TOSS THEM INTO ANOTHER.
BUT... IF IT'S POSSIBLE...
BESIDES, IF THEY WERE TO BE REHABILITATED, THEY'D NEED TO LEARN RIGHT AND WRONG. THEY'D HAVE TO LEARN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THEIR CRIMES, AND THEY'D COME TO FEEL GUILTY OVER THEM. WITH THE WEIGHT OF COUNTLESS MURDERS ON THEIR SHOULDERS, HOW LONG COULD THEY POSSIBLY LAST?

?!
HOW'D I GET...?
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS?
IT'S HOT. AM I OUTSIDE?
hff
SOMEONE'S HERE...
OKAY, MAN, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT.
WHERE'S THE BACK DOOR?!
Fuck!
...I THINK I MAY HAVE LOST TRACK.
WHO CAN SAY? THERE ARE SO MANY DOORS HERE...
!!
huff
huff
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE THAT DOOR.
AND YOU CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO OPEN IT.

I TOLD YOU I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOU DESIRE, AND YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOUR MOTHER.
NO...
...THIS IS YOUR MOTHER.
THAT... THAT'S ...
... CRAZY!
WHY IS SHE...?!
WHY WOULD I WANT TO MEET HER?!
NO MATTER WHAT THEY PUT YOU THROUGH...
...YOU KEPT HER IN YOUR HEART, DIDN'T YOU?
MOTHER? THIS'S THAT KID'S MOM? THE ONE WHO WAS CRYIN' EARLIER?
?!
I SEE YOU'VE MET "MOTHER."

I'VE DREAMT ABOUT THE DAY THAT MY MOTHER WOULD FINALLY SEE THE MAN HER SON HAS BECOME.
IF YOU MUST FEEL SOMETHING, FEEL HATRED.
I GET IT.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
HATRED FOR SOCIETY, HATRED FOR THE WORLD, AND HATRED FOR THE MOTHER WHO ABANDONED YOU!
ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET HER...
I'VE LIVED ALL MY LIFE FOR THIS DAY.

OF COURSE, NOW THAT YOU'VE RETURNED TO HER, ALL THAT CAN CHANGE.
THIS FOREST WILL BE YOUR NEW HOME.
...THE EMOTIONAL LOSS PROVED TOO MUCH FOR HER TO BEAR. SHE FELL INTO NEUROSIS. NOW SHE SPENDS HER DAYS CRADLING THIS WOODEN DOLL, BELIEVING IT TO BE THE SON SHE LOST.
THE SON SHE LOVED.
KILLING YOUR OWN MOTHER...
BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
DON'T DO IT!
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE YOURSELF!
MOTHER?
FORGIVE?
...WITH YOUR MOTHER.
YOU CAN LIVE IN MY PET SHOP. AND SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN HAPPINESS...
SHE LEFT YOU IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE SHE TRUSTED. PEOPLE WHO LATER BETRAYED THAT TRUST BY HANDING YOU OVER TO SCORPIO'S CHILDREN.
THE FEVER LEFT HER UNABLE TO PRODUCE MILK, AND TOO WEAK TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR CARE.
...YOUR MOTHER BECAME SICK.
SHORTLY AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO YOU...
MY SON, YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T ABANDON YOU.

...AND THEN, THE FIRST LIGHT.
THE DARKNESS
I RECOGNIZE THAT SMELL.
HER VOICE!! IT'S FAMILIAR.
IT'S... WARM...
AH...
SON...
MY SON...
I REMEMBER ALL OF THIS.

NO.
I...
I'M...A MURDERER!
I CAN'T LIVE A NORMAL LIFE ANYMORE. ANY CHANCE OF THAT DIED LONG AGO.
I MADE MY VERY FIRST KILL WHEN I WAS EIGHT. THAT'S SEVEN YEARS AGO.
I HAVEN'T STOPPED SINCE THEN.
MY HANDS ARE STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF HUNDREDS OF VICTIMS.
IF I'M EVER CAUGHT, I'LL BE PUT TO DEATH.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE BASE.
THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE FOR ME...TO GO BACK TO.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT A BIT DIFFICULT.
RIGHT NOW THE POLICE HAVE THIS SHOP SURROUNDED.
ALSO, JUST BEFORE YOU ARRIVED THEY ANNOUNCED ON THE RADIO...
...THAT YOUR ASSIGNMENT WAS A FAILURE.
A FAILURE?

ON MY MARK. YOU READY?
OKAY GUYS, WE'RE GOING IN!
HE'S KILLING HOS-
WA-
LEON
IT SEEMS THAT WHEN CAPRIONE FIRED HIS GUN IN SELF-DEFENSE, IT THREW OFF THE ASSASSIN'S AIM JUST ENOUGH TO SAVE THE DON'S LIFE.
YES, SIR. HIS HEART STOPPED BEATING, BUT THEY MANAGED TO RESUSCITATE HIM AT THE HOSPITAL.
DON CAPRIONE'S ALIVE?!
THAT WOULD MAKE THE KID'S CRIME ATTEMPTED MURDER, RATHER THAN FIRST DEGREE.
HUH?! WHAT?
OH, GOD...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU...
HUH ?!
DON'T, LEON YOU'RE GOING TO PROVOKE HIM!
SCORPIO'S CHILDREN VALUE TWO THINGS ABOVE ALL ELSE: SECRECY AND THEIR REPUTATION.
IF A MISSION IS DECLARED A FAILURE AND THE OPERATIVE HAS BEEN COMPROMISED ...
...HE'S INSTRUCTED ...
THERE'S SOMETHING I DIDN'T TELL YOU! IT'S THE LAST PART OF THEIR PROGRAMMING. THE FAILSAFE!
HUH?!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A GUNSHOT!
!!

HELLO, DETECTIVE. IT WOULD SEEM YOU'VE BROKEN MY DOOR. AGAIN.
.....
POLICE !!
GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD!!!
SUSPECT?
WHERE'S THE SUSPECT?!
CHRIS, ARE YOU OKAY?
BIG BRO!
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE YOUNG MAN ON MY SOFA?
.....
IS THE SUSPECT ALL RIGHT?!
WE HEARD A GUNSHOT!
AN ASIAN MALE AROUND 15 YEARS OLD.

IT'S THEIR CODE OF BLOOD. THEY'VE FAILED AND FAILURES ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

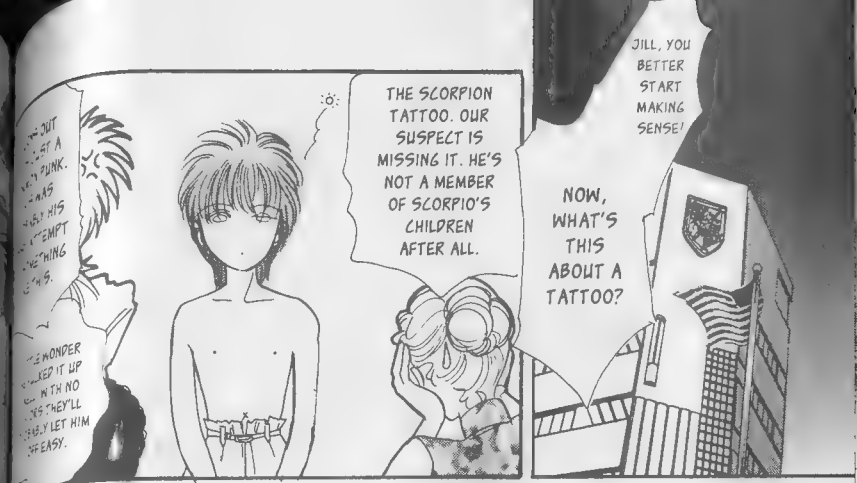
...TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE!

THE ASSASSIN DIED WHEN HE SHOT HIMSELF. A FITTING END, I'D SAY.
BUT HE WILL AWAKEN...
WHEN HE DOES, HIS SOUL WILL BE REBORN...
...AND HE WILL BE FREE TO LIVE OUT HIS LIFE IN PEACE.
IF YOU KNEW HE WAS JUST GONNA OFF HIMSELF, WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US EAT HIM?
COUNT, YOU'RE ALL R'S-Y WITH THIS
IS HE DEAD? DID YOU KILL HIM, COUNT?
ACTUALLY, I MADE HIM TEA.
TEA WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF SEDATIVE IN IT. HE'S SLEEPING.
WHY, YES!
HERE ARE HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS. I TRUST THIS WILL HELP YOU CLOSE THE CASE...
EXCELLENT WORK, COUNT! YOU'D HAVE MADE ONE HELL OF A POLICE OFFICER, YOU KNOW THAT?
Crap!
WE'LL QUESTION HIM WHEN HE WAKES UP.
THEN HE CAN START HIS REHABILITATION.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET HIM OUTTA HERE!

Pet Shop of Horrors

第4話／Diet

ペットショップ　オブ　ホラーズ



LET'S SEE...
I'LL TAKE THAT ONE...
AND THAT ONE...
OOH! AND I'LL TAKE THAT STRAWBERRY TART TOO!
I'M VERY SORRY
...BUT I'M AFRAID I JUST SOLD THAT ONE TO ANOTHER CUSTOMER.
HUH? YOU DON'T HAVE ANOTHER ONE?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO, COUNT?
GIVE IT TO THE YOUNG LADY. I DON'T MIND HAVING SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD.
HAVING A PARTY TODAY, MISS?
YEAH...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE COMING.
THAT'S OKAY, THOUGH. IT MEANS THERE WILL BE MORE SWEETS FOR ME.

JOHN? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
SORRY, EM, BUT I CAN'T GO TO THE PARTY WITH YOU. I'M BUSY.
NO...

OKAY, EM, THEN.
EM, DO YOU KNOW THE PROPER WAY TO GO ON A DIET?
WELL, ACTUALLY, I'VE TRIED ALL SORTS BUT NONE OF THEM EVER SEEM TO WORK.
AND EVEN THEN I'LL BE LUCKY IF I'M THIN BY PROM.
WELL, EMERALDA--
PLEASE STOP CALLING ME THAT.
I'VE, UH, NEVER REALLY LIKED MY FULL NAME.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S GOING TO GET ME TO LOSE WEIGHT IS SOME SERIOUS FASTING.
PERHAPS YOU'LL DO BETTER WITH A PARTNER?
PARTNER?
THIS IS A PET SHOP, ISN'T IT?
ARF!
WHO ARE...
SOMEONE TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT AND MORAL SUPPORT.
CAROLINE, WILL YOU GET DOROTHY FOR ME, PLEASE?

COUNT 8
NOTNEVE ERNDTLNS
IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME...
...I'D SAY YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM. WHAT SORT OF BOY BREAKS UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND A FEW WEEKS BEFORE PROM?
HE'S DATING THIS GIRL NAMED CONNIE NOW. SHE'S REALLY STUCK UP, BUT SHE'S ALSO REALLY SKINNY.
SO TOMORROW, I'M GONNA GO ON A DIET!
I'M GONNA MAKE JOHN NOTICE ME AGAIN.
THIS TART'S REALLY TASTY! CAN I HAVE SOME MORE TEA?
Yeah.
Diets are evil.
I SEE.

WITH A LITTLE DISCIPLINE AND A BIT OF WORK, WE CAN GIVE YOU A BODY THAT WILL BLOW CONNIE'S AWAY.
FASTING IS NOT THE ANSWER! TRUST ME, IT ONLY CREATES PROBLEMS.
WHAT YOU NEED IS A BALANCED DIET WITH PROPER NUTRITION, LOTS OF EXERCISE, AND A MORE ACTIVE LIFESTYLE.
YOU CALLED, COUNT?
WONDERFUL. I'VE DRAWN UP THE CONTRACT.
EM, COME AND SIGN RIGHT OVER HERE...
The Count's acting awfully suspicious today.
WE CAN?! OH, THANK YOU, COACH!
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.
YES, WE'LL HAVE YOU LOOKING GOOD IN NO TIME.
THANKS, BUT NO.
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! YOU MUST BE A MODEL!
OH MY GOODNESS ...
BUT I COULD NEVER...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A BODY JUST LIKE DOROTHY'S?
HOW ABOUT IT?

CLARISSE SENT ME.
I TRUST THAT YOU UNDERSTAND.
CERTAINLY.
COME ON, ROMEO.
HUH? ALREADY?!
CHRIS IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BATH ISN'T IT?
THIS ISN'T A GOOD PLACE. MAY I SHOW YOU TO THE BACK?
I'LL HAVE TEA BROUGHT DOWN.
NOW, THEN...
I'LL GIVE YOU A NICE SHAMPOO
Scrub him really good! We have to wash out those dirty thoughts.

WELL, THEN, GOOD LUCK TO BOTH OF YOU.
THANKS FOR LUNCH!
WOULD YOU BE COUNT D?
HEY, THAT WOMAN WE JUST PASSED, I'VE SEEN HER IN A FASHION MAGAZINE!
DOES COUNT D RUN A PET SHOP OR A MODELING AGENCY?
Whoa!
WELCOME, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

YOUR SKIN IS SO SMOOTH!
WOW, CLARISSE, YOU LOOK GREAT!
THANKS!
DID YOU SWITCH COSMETICS?
C'MON, YOU'VE BEEN DIFFERENT LATELY. YOU'RE GETTING MORE BEAUTIFUL BY THE MINUTE. NOT TO MENTION YOU'RE EATING LIKE A CONSTRUCTION WORKER...
...AND YOU HAVEN'T GAINED AN OUNCE.
SHE WAS ALWAYS PRETTY, BUT NOW SHE'S BEAUTIFUL. PLUS, SHE'S BECOME MUCH MORE ASSERTIVE.
AS A RESULT, SHE'S NOW GETTING EXCLUSIVE CONTRACTS FROM SOME OF THE MAJORS.
.....
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THE TYPE TO PUT YOUR FINGER DOWN YOUR THROAT.
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BINGEING AND PURGING, NOW HAVE YOU?
IRENE...
...THIS GOES NO FURTHER THAN US, OKAY? THERE'S THIS SHOP IN CHINATOWN...
BUT IF NOT THAT, THEN WHAT IS IT? C'MON, WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT? YOU CAN TELL ME!
REALLY?
YEAH, RIGHT!
I CAN'T EAT THAT SHIT. I'M ON A DIET.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME PASTRIES?
I trust that tea is still okay.
YOU'RE ALREADY QUITE THIN. WHY LOSE MORE WEIGHT?
THAT MEANS A RESTRICTED DIET, EXERCISE, MASSAGE, DRUGS, PLASTIC SURGERY... YOU KNOW THE DRILL.
I HAVE TO MAINTAIN MY PROPORTIONS. IF I GO UP SO MUCH AS ONE DRESS SIZE, I CAN LOSE IMPORTANT ACCOUNTS.
A MODEL'S BODY IS A MARKETING TOOL. IT'S OUR CALLING CARD.
IT'S LIKE THE MAFIA IN VERSACE.
THE FASHION WORLD MAY APPEAR GLAMOROUS, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY VERY CUTTHROAT.

ALSO, I RUN A PET SHOP HERE, BUT OCCASIONALLY I DABBLE IN OTHER FORMS OF BUSINESS.
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE OCCASIONS, AND I TRUST THAT IT WILL REMAIN BETWEEN US. TRANSACTIONS LIKE THIS, WHILE PROFITABLE, AREN'T ALWAYS GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
REMEMBER, ONE DOSE A DAY. NO MORE.
I UNDERSTAND.
YES, OF COURSE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, COUNT. THIS WILL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET.
THAT IS TO SAY...
...AFTER YOU'VE LANDED SOME OF THOSE... LUCRATIVE ACCOUNTS.
IT'S PEARL, RIGHT?
IT'S... BEAUTIFUL!!
YES, IT IS, BUT WE'LL DEFER THE PAYMENT UNTIL AFTER THE TREATMENT HAS ITS EFFECT.
?
IT'S GOTTA BE EXPENSIVE, RIGHT?!
WHAT'S THIS GONNA COST ME?
WAIT, IS THIS IT?!
IT'S AN HERBAL REMEDY. JUST ONE DOSE EACH DAY SHOULD SUFFICE.
IT'S THE SAME THING YOUR FRIEND CLARISSE TOOK.

KNOCK KNOCK
YO, COUNT!
WHO'S THE BABE?!
I NOTICED SHE DIDN'T LEAVE WITH A PET. SO WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS WERE YOU TWO TRANSACTING, EH?
DETECTIVE, THAT IS NONE OF YOUR--
DOGS... YOU'RE THE DOG, D!
ACTUALLY, BY THE LOOK OF THIS PLACE, I'D SAY HE'S MORE LIKE A PIG.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
SHE WAS A CUSTOMER. SHE'S A MODEL, AND WAS LOOKING FOR A DOG TO ACCOMPANY HER ON PHOTO SHOOTS. UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF OUR DOGS MET HER FANCY.
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TELL A SOUL. HEY, DOES SHE HAVE A SISTER?
THIS IS NOT A STARBUCKS, DETECTIVE!
THIS IS NASH MCKINLEY. HE'S AN OLD FRIEND. WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN YEARS, THEN OUT OF THE BLUE WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE SAME ELEVATOR.
UH, HI.
AND YOU WOULD BE?
WE STARTED TALKING, SO I INVITED HIM OVER HERE FOR TEA SO WE COULD CATCH UP.
COME, COME. LET'S GO INSIDE AND HAVE SOME TEA.
HEY, D, DON'T SELL ANY WEIRD STUFF TO MY PAL!!
HEY!!
So many customers today...
WELL, ACTUALLY, MY PET PARAKEET DIED A MONTH AGO.
I WAS THINKING OF BUYING A NEW ONE.
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?! WE HAVE SOME FINE BIRDS HERE, I IMAGINE YOU'LL BE MOST IMPRESSED WITH OUR SELECTION.
AH...

YEAH, I'VE FOUGHT WELTERWEIGHT ALL MY LIFE. IT'S TOO LATE IN MY CAREER TO SWITCH DIVISIONS.
ALL BOXERS STRUGGLE WITH THEIR WEIGHT. BUT FOR ME, THE STRUGGLE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT.
Hmph! You do it all the time!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, D.
NASH COULD FIGHT LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT, BUT HIS OPPONENTS WOULD HAVE A POWER AND STAMINA ADVANTAGE OVER HIM QUIT TALKIN' ABOUT THINGS YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

NASH...
A FIGHTER'S CAREER IS SHORT, AND I'M GETTING NEAR THE END OF THE ROAD.
...I'M DONE WITH BOXING. FOR GOOD.
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED, MY NEXT LOSS IS GONNA BE MY LAST. IF I LOSE THIS NEXT MATCH...

I NEED TO GET MY WEIGHT DOWN.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE A FIGHT NEXT WEEK. BIG ONE, TOO.

YIKES! THOSE SWEETS ARE HARD ON THE EYES.
ACTUALLY, NO. I LOVE 'EM.
DO YOU DISLIKE PASTRIES?

HEY, CUT THAT OUT. THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.
HE EVEN MADE IT TO THE OLYMPICS! FOUGHT WELTERWEIGHT AND TOOK HOME A SILVER. NOT BAD FOR A WHITE GUY FROM LA.
NASH STARTED BOXING IN HIGH SCHOOL, THEN WENT ON TO WIN THE COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

WHY NOT SWITCH TO THE NEXT WEIGHT CLASS?
AND AS I'VE GOTTEN OLDER, IT'S GOTTEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO LOSE WEIGHT.
I'M JUST A 4-ROUND GUY NOW.

20!
VERY GOOD! OKAY, ON TO SIT-UPS. TWENTY OF THEM. READY?
18...
19...
huff
huff
YES, COACH!
HEY, WHO'S THAT?
HER DIET INSTRUCTOR, SHE SAID. SHE'S BEEN STAYING HERE.
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS!
Other than my new object of fantasy.
YES, COACH...
JUST REMEMBER, FOR LOSING WEIGHT, VEGETABLES ARE GREAT! EXPECT MORE FOR BREAKFAST.
THAT'S ALL YOU NEED.
THAT'S IT? THIS IS ALL I GET?!

AWW! DON'T TELL ME THE GIRL LEFT!
SORRY TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS.
You were in the bath? Did you wash behind your ears?
DIETS AND MORE DIETS...
CLAK
PEOPLE ARE TRULY MYSTERIOUS CREATURES.
NO, WHAT'S MYSTERIOUS IS HOW EVERYONE ELSE STRUGGLES WITH THEIR WEIGHT, AND YOU WOLF DOWN CAKE AFTER CAKE AND NEVER GAIN A POUND.
COUNT D
OH, YOU'RE HERE, BIG BRO?
HEY, CHRIS.

THEY ALWAYS WEAR OFF.
I JUS- CAN'T DO-
I'VE TRIED LOTS AND LOTS OF DIETS, BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE WORKED.
OBESITY RUNS IN OUR FAMILY. IT'S IN OUR GENES!
UGH... I'M SO HUNGRY. I CAN'T SLEEP.
HOOT HOOT HOOT
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
EMERELDA, LOSING WEIGHT TAKES LIMITATION AND PERSEVERANCE. YOU NEED SELF-CONTROL TO FIGHT AGAINST TEMPTATION.
SELF-CONTROL, EMERALDA!
I-I UNDERSTAND. JUST PLEASE STOP CALLING ME BY THAT NAME....
EMERALDA!
STOP THAT!
DON'T LOOK DOWN! YOU WILL LOOK AT ME WHEN I SPEAK TO YOU! RAISE YOUR CHIN AND STRAIGHTEN YOUR BACK, EMERALDA!
YOU LACK DISCIPLINE! IT'S LITTLE WONDER YOU'RE SO FAT!
DON'T BE WEAK!
BUT I'M SO HUNGRY. JUST THIS ONCE?
EMERALDA! WHAT DID I TELL YOU?! NO EATING BETWEEN MEALS!
.....
ICE
DON'T YOU WANT TO HAVE A BODY LIKE MINE?
Gasp!

TH-THAT'S FOR ME TO WEAR?
COUNT D ASKED ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
YES, YOU CAN WEAR THIS DRESS TO THE PARTY.
IN THIS, JOHN WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE HIS EYES OFF YOU. EVERY BOY AT THE PROM WILL WANT TO DANCE WITH YOU.
I'LL...DO IT.
OKAY...
.....

EMERALDA ...
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
NOW IMAGINE YOURSELF...
...AT THE PROM:
JOHN REACHES OUT HIS HAND TO YOU AND ASKS YOU TO DANCE.
THINK ABOUT HOW PERFECT YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.
OPEN YOUR EYES, EMERALDA.

Can I have a bit more?
AND I HAVEN'T GAINED AN OUNCE!
...AND UNLIKE MOST DESIGNERS, THIS IS ONE PILL THAT LIVES UP TO ITS NAME.
I'VE BEEN TAKING... COUNT'S MIRACLE... FOR TWO WEEKS NOW.
Heh, heh, heh...
IRENE, YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT LATELY.
AND I HEAR YOU'VE SNAGGED YOURSELF A NEW BOYFRIEND!
YOU MUST TELL ME YOUR SECRET.
IN THE PAST WEEK, I'VE HAD MY FILL OF PIZZA, ICE CREAM, BURGERS... YOU NAME IT.
AH, IRENE, NICE WORK TODAY.
AND YOU AS WELL, MR. MUSSHU. YOUR SHOWS ALWAYS BRING OUT A'S FINEST.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR?
YOU'RE EATING SO MUCH. DON'T YOU HAVE A SHOOT NEXT WEEK?
YES, I DO, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I MADE A PROMISE TO BOTH OF YOU.
THIS LITTLE SECRET'S JUST BETWEEN US...
CLARISSE ...

SHUT UP!!
FUCKING BIRD!
IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, I'M GONNA FRY YOU UP!
HEY, NASH...
CAN I JUST SAY ONE WORD MORE? JUST ONE WORD.
CHEESE-CAKE.
SO, YOU'RE ON A DIET?
SO IS HALF THE CITY, APPARENTLY.
ALL THE SAME, I HAVE JUST THE BIRD FOR YOU.
Mmgh!
WELL, IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA SIT THERE, HOW 'BOUT A COLD ONE? WE'LL DRINK TO YOUR VICTORY!
Hmm...
LEON WARNED ME ABOUT BUYING A PET FROM THE FREAKY CHINESE GUY. I SHOULDA LISTENED TO HIM.

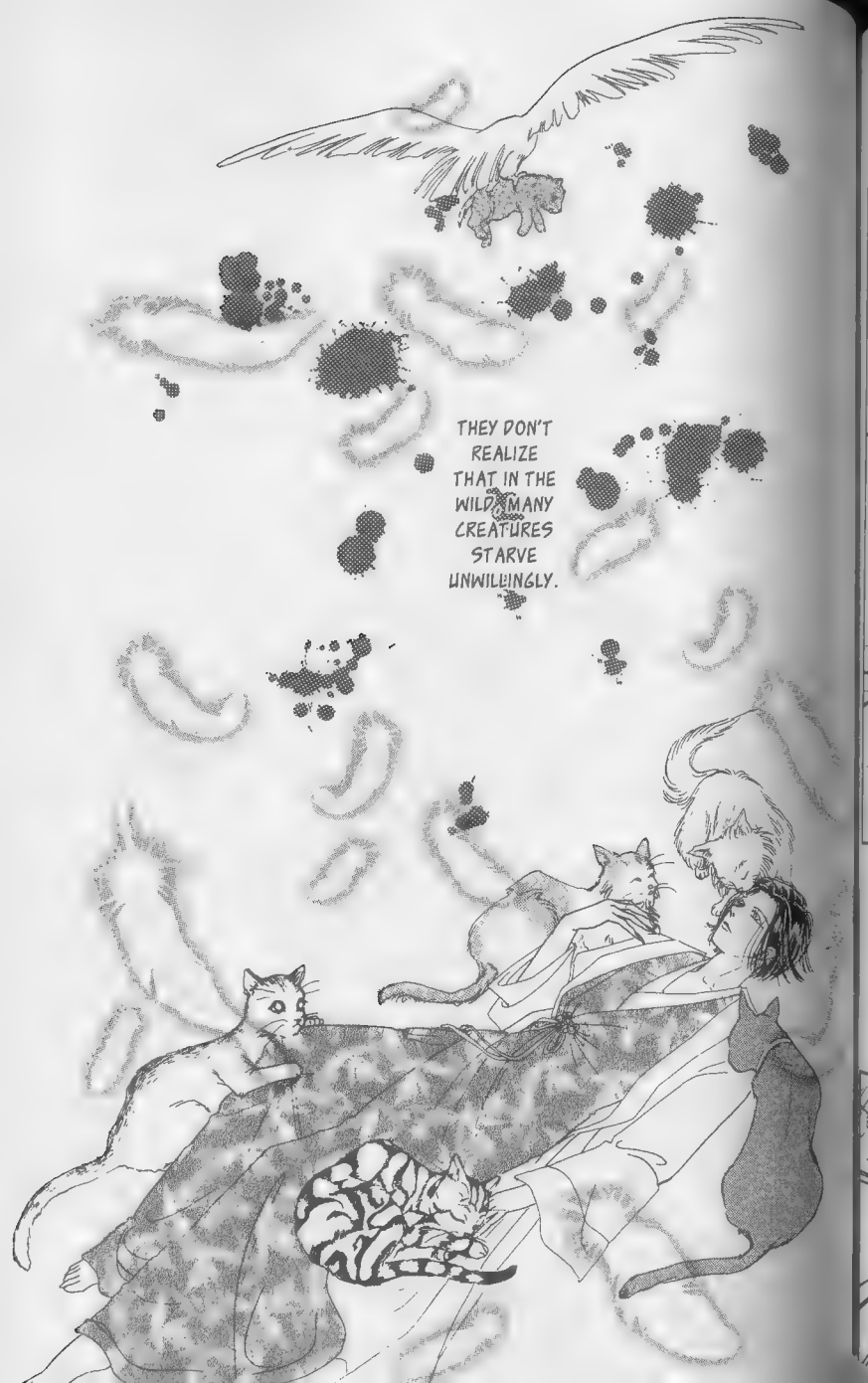
SQUEE
HEY, NASH!
HOW YOU DOIN'?
SQUEE
ONE PUNCH AT A TIME. ONE STEP AT A TIME. BIT BY BIT.
WHY DON'T YA TAKE A BREAK AND HAVE SOMETHIN' TO DRINK?
NAH, GOTTA KEEP GOING.
THUMP
I GOT IT. FRIED CHICKEN! I HAVE THE COLONEL'S NUMBER...
NASH...
THUMP

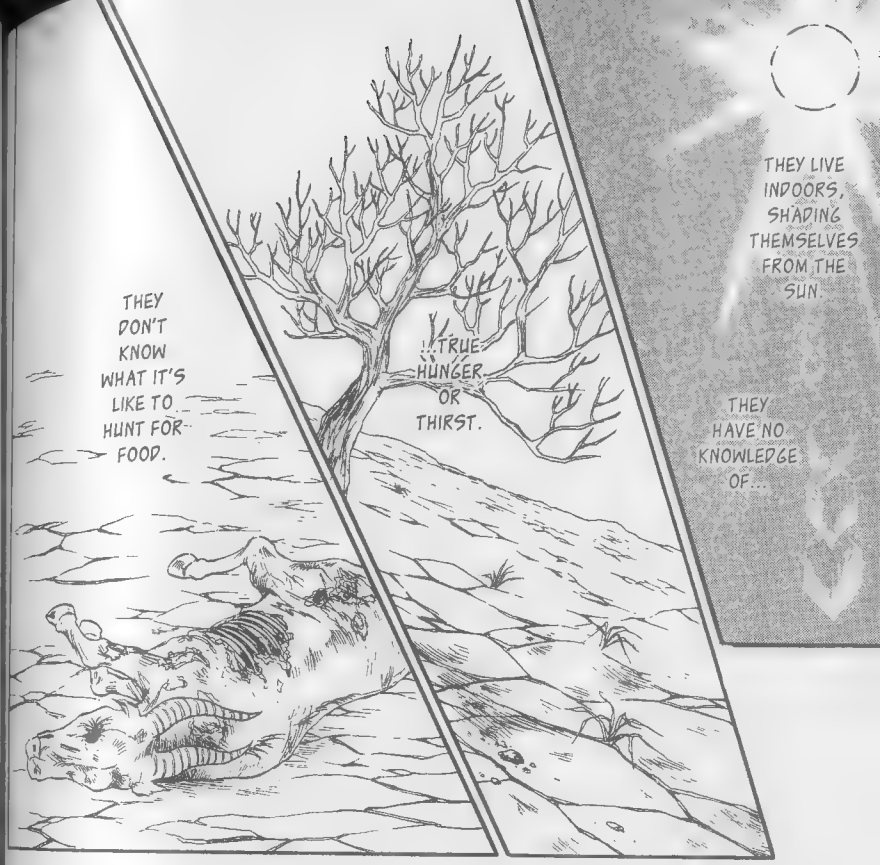
...AND GO TO THE PROM WITH JOHN.
I'M GOING TO WEAR THAT DRESS.
I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN. I CAN DO THIS!
IRENE, ARE YOU FEELING WELL?
IT'S NOT COLD IN HERE AT ALL. ALL THE REST OF US ARE SWEATING.
CAN SOMEONE TURN UP THE HEAT? IT'S COLD IN HERE.
ACHOO!
WHY HAVE I BEEN SO THIRSTY LATELY?

...AND THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'M GONNA LOSE TO YOU.

HEH... I GET IT.
HOW 'BOUT A CHILI DOG?
NASH...
YEAH, KEEP TALKIN' BIRD. KEEP TALKIN' TRASH. LOOKS LIKE I'M FIGHTING YOU NOW...

HEY, COUNT...
...WILL YOU EXPLAIN TO US...
...THIS OBSESSION HUMANS SEEM TO HAVE WITH STARVING THEMSELVES? PLEASE, IT'S DRIVING US NUTS. T-CHAN'S CONVINCED THE WORLD'S COMING TO AN END.
.....
HUMANS, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, ARE NOT LIKE YOU.
LET'S HAVE A DRINK.
HEY, NASH!
OR MAYBE A PIZZA? C'MON! IT'S GAME TIME!
AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I EAT, WHY AM I ALWAYS HUNGRY?
Mmm!
Mmgh!
Ngh.
CHIPS
POTATO
FOUR MORE TO GO. YOU CAN DO IT!!
25...
26...
24...
Nng!
Nng!


THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT IN THE WILD, MANY CREATURES STARVE UNWILLINGLY.


THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HUNT FOR FOOD.
TRUE HUNGER OR THIRST.
THEY LIVE INDOORS, SHADING THEMSELVES FROM THE SUN.
THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF...

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHY IS MY SKIN SO DRY?
AAIIEE!
HOW FAR THE QUEEN HAS FALLEN. THAT'S TRULY DISGUSTING, IRENE.
CLARISSE?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
huff
WA...
WATER...
huff
huff
I NEED W-WATER...

Y-YOU... TRICKED ME, DIDN'T YOU?!
YOU GOT THE CHINESE MAN T-TO HELP YOU!
HELP ME...
CLARISSE, P-PLEASE...
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I? Y-YOU WANTED ME OUT OF THE W-WAY, AND SO YOU DID SOMETHING!
WHAT DID YOU ...
MY STOMACH ...
OH, GOD, IT HURTS!
SAVE... M-ME...

EM?
151 POUNDS, 5 OUNCES ...
MCKINLEY QUALIFIES.
HOW'S THAT, BIRD?! I'VE BEATEN YOU!!
NOW FOR THE REAL THING...

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S PRETTY SHORT TOO.
HUH?
HAS JOHN'S NOSE ALWAYS BEEN CROOKED LIKE THAT?
YEAH, KEEP SMILING, JOHN. I ALWAYS HATED HIS SMILE.
Eww! He has food stuck in his teeth!
MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO DISTRACT PEOPLE FROM HIS SUIT. WAS THE SALVATION ARMY PRETTY PICKED OVER?
AND JEEZ, THINK YOU'RE WEARING ENOUGH COLOGNE THERE, BOYO? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO COVER UP?
AND CONSIDERING THEY'VE BEEN CHECKING ME OUT SINCE I STEPPED THROUGH THE DOOR...
YOU KNOW, COMPARED TO SOME OF THE OTHER GUYS HERE, JOHN ISN'T REALLY ALL THAT.
JUST TRYIN' TO MOTIVATE YOU TO LOSE SOME OF THAT WEIGHT YOU WERE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT.
SHE'S GOT NOTHING ON YOU.
HEH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER, BABE.
JUST, UH...
I WAS JUST FOOLIN' AROUND A BIT.
YOU PROMISED TO DANCE WITH CONNIE, DIDN'T YOU?
EM!
HEY, EM, IT'S FRED! WE HAVE SCIENCE TOGETHER.
I LOVE YOUR DRESS! YOU MAKIN' ALL THESE OTHER GIRLS LOOK BAD, GIRL!
W-WOW, YOU LOOK A LOT DIFFERENT, EM.
JOHN!
DO YOU WANT TO DANCE?
I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THE MOMENT. SO LONG...
OH GOD, PLEASE LET THIS NOT BE A DREAM!
IS THIS A DREAM?!

SPEED WASN'T MUCH A FACTOR IN THIS MATCH-UP, BOTH FIGHTERS ARE KNOWN TO BE QUICK ON THEIR FEET. ACCURACY WASN'T A PROBLEM FOR MCKINLEY EITHER. HE ACTUALLY LANDED MORE PUNCHES THAN WALKER IN TWO OF THE THREE ROUNDS.
WELL, THAT'S IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. LA'S OWN NASH MCKINLEY LOSES BY KNOCKOUT IN ROUND THREE, SECONDS BEFORE THE CLOSING BELL.
NO, THE KEY FACTOR IN THIS FIGHT WAS STAMINA. MANY THINGS CAN AFFECT A FIGHTER'S STAMINA. AGE AND HEALTH ARE TWO BIGGIES, BUT IN MCKINLEY'S CASE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE HIS RECENT WEIGHT LOSS. HE JUST LACKED THE ENERGY TO GO THE FOUR ROUNDS.
YOU KNOW, BECOME A GIRL WORTHY OF ME.
THE ONLY THING YOU'RE WORTHY OF IS A BUSTED LIP!
IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE END TO A STELLAR CAREER, AS NASH MCKINLEY HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO RETIRE SHOULD HE LOSE THIS MATCH. THE WORLD OF BOXING IS GONNA MISS HIM...
HEY, NASH!

DEFEAT HAS NEVER TASTED SO DELICIOUS. Y'KNOW, NOW THAT I'M RETIRED, I THINK I MIGHT OPEN A BAR...
THE BEST, BIRD. THE BEST.
I KEPT IT COLD FOR YA. C'MON, LET'S TOAST YOUR RETIREMENT.
ゴクゴクゴク
WELL? HOW WAS IT?

NOW, IRENE, WE MUST FIND YOU A HOST.
DON'T BE CONCERNED, IRENE.
YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW. MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER BEFORE...
YES, YOUR BEAUTY RUNS DEEP, BUT SO DOES YOUR APPETITE...
HOW DO YOU FEEL, IRENE?
THE WORLD IS OVERFLOWING WITH PEOPLE DYING TO SHED A FEW POUNDS. WE JUST TAKE THEM AT THEIR WORD... THAT'S ALL.
IT WON'T BE
I... IRENE?
THAT IS MY NAME?

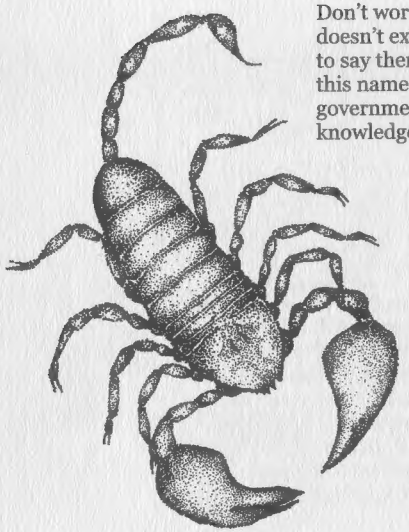
EMERALDA...
CHEST OUT AND BACK STRAIGHT!
LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND DON'T FIDGET!
HAVE SOME PRIDE IN YOURSELF! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE WORTH IT?!
SHE WAS SAYING ALL THOSE THINGS TO ENCOURAGE ME...
EMERALDA!
YES, DOROTHY. UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER EITHER.
YOU HAVEN'T? WELL, CAN YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HER FOR ME?
I OWE HER SO MUCH!
WHERE'S DOROTHY? I-I NEED TO SEE HER.
She's the only reason I made it this far.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE MY PROM! I...I WANTED TO THANK HER FOR ALL SHE'S DONE.
She was tough, but that's exactly what I needed.

MY DEAR GIRL, YOU'RE GOING TO GAIN BACK EVERYTHING YOU'VE LOST...
...IF YOU KEEP EATING SO MUCH.
sob
THEN I GO AND RUIN IT BY PUNCHING JOHN IN FRONT OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL! NOW EVERYONE'S SCARED OF ME! JOHN WON'T EVEN LOOK IN MY DIRECTION!
I... I WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TO LOSE WEIGHT. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD I WORKED!
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!
COUNT D
sob
chomp
sob
...EMERALDA?
BUT HAVEN'T YOU GAINED SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT...

PET CATALOG

No.7

Scorpion



Don't worry. Scorpio's Children doesn't exist. I made it up. That's not to say there isn't an organization of this name working for Pol Pot's government, just that I have no knowledge of it if there is...

Black Cat

Mr. Yuya, a nice man who lives nearby me, owns two black cats. Their names are Teba (father) and Pon (son), and they really do have slim and beautiful bodies just like Dorothy. They look a lot alike too. When one of the cats passes by, it's hard to tell which cat it is. Usually, the only way to be sure is to call out "Teba" or "Pon-chan" and see which one he reacts to.

Parakeet

Yes, I know I had ours making witty remarks and carrying conversations with No but the truth is they c speak as well as a par or mynah bird.

?

Quite a diet, wasn't it? I have no idea what our friend Irene turned into. Just something creepy.

MEOW
HERE, GIRL...
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT... IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, WHY DON'T YOU DO A FAVOR FOR DOROTHY?
OF...OF COURSE!
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS CAT FOR HER, THEN.
I'M SURE SHE'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL PARTNER FOR YOU.

End of Episode 4

Orangutan

According to ancient Chinese myth, China was once swarming with orangutans. I mean, it was like "Planet of the Apes" without Charlton Heston. They're all gone now. After writing "Donor," I got a lot of letters asking if this meant Count D is actually an ape. The answer is no, he's not. But he's played one on TV.

The only thing I'm doing is selling radishes.
As you will see, even the Count gave me a hard time on "Doom"!
You're overreacting...
Um, this we're going cast you two role
You'll also have to put these grapefruits in your bra to make it look like you have breasts.
Me? Wear women's clothing?! Absolutely not!!
I'm going to get you for this.
Okay, just act a little more shy, and can you smile a little more absent-mindedly?
Again with the fan! What sort of dude carries a fan around?!
Hmph!
You aren't done yet?
Waaah! I can't draw it.
Well, actually it's more like this.

Butterfly

A writer named Shoji from the Sung Kingdom during China's Warring States period wrote, "When I see myself in my dreams as a butterfly, and see myself as a man when I am awake, I do not know whether I am a man who dreams he is a butterfly, or a butterfly who dreams he is a man." Nice, huh?

I often think that drawing a manga is like filming a dramatic movie. I'm the writer, cameraman, director... but I don't do stunts. That's the actors' problem! But in comics, if the actors pout and say, "I'm not saying that kind of line in this scene!" I can just ignore them and make them do whatever I want!! You know how self-centered actors can really hold up a production. Things were especially difficult during "Doom."

TOKYOPOP

Manga
Horror
USA $9.99

Pet Shop of Horrors™

Welcome to Chinatown! During your visit, be sure to stop by Count D's pet shop, where love and dreams are sold in the form of exotic animals. But animals, as you know, have a tendency to get out of control...

DOOM:
After Orcot's act of hesitation results in the death of his partner, will Count D ease the detective's mind...or simply drive him mad?

DONOR:
Count D's sister appears on the scene, and she wants to give D a piece of her heart...literally!

DUTY:
A fifteen-year-old hit man has a little problem with la cosa nostra, and Orcot is the only thing that stands in the way of mob peace and all out war!

DIET:
Count D's diet plan has a simple rule: don't watch what you eat...but pay attention to what eats you!

SPO

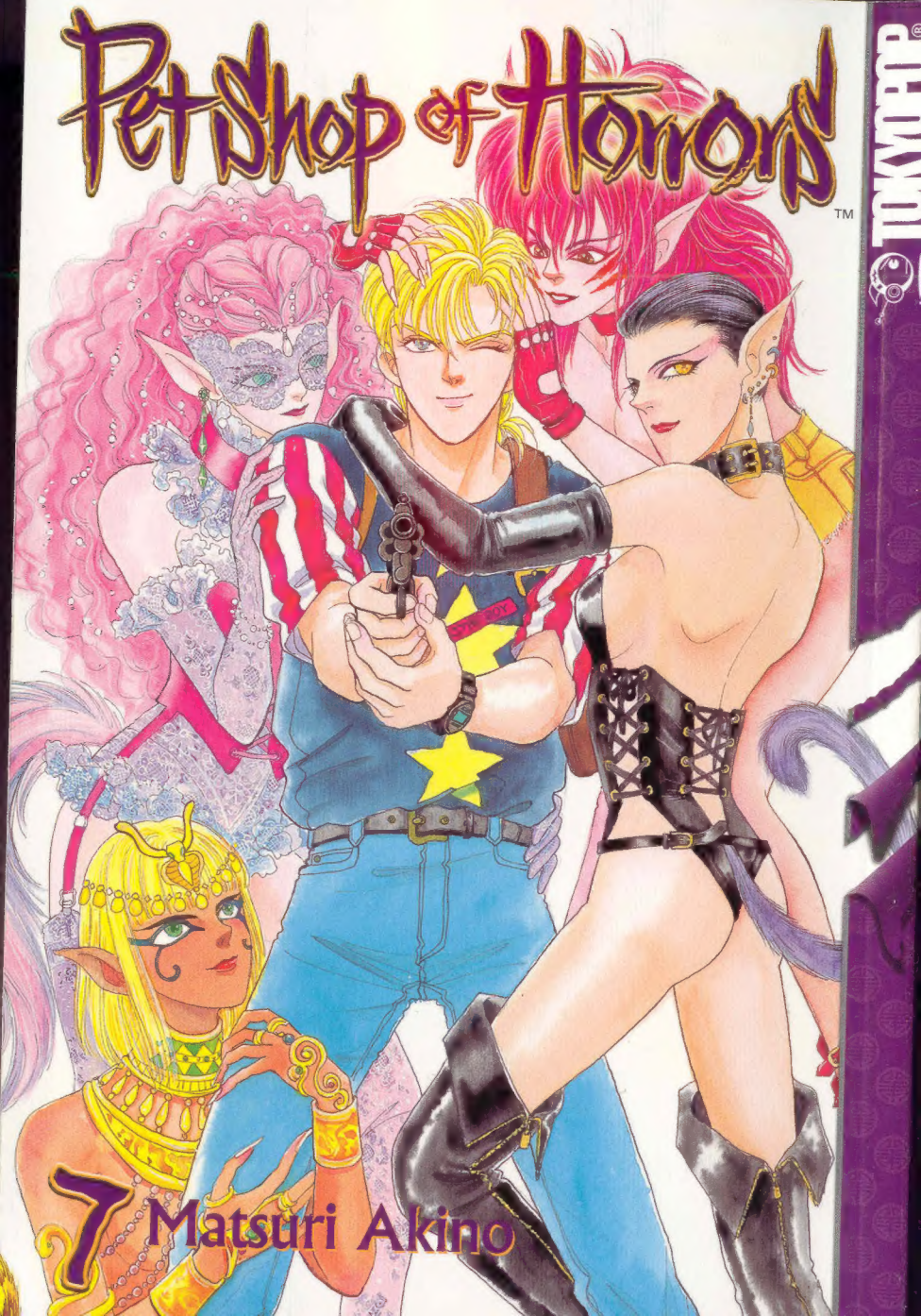
ISBN 1591825040

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA
品質第一公式商品

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

www.TOKYOPOP.com

Pet Shop of Horrors



7

Matsuri Akino

TOKYOPOP